

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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50P WHERE SOLD

PRESSURE RISES OVER POWER BID

Report by Pam Kingsley

FRESH pressure is set to be put on National Grid to justify its plans for a high voltage power line through the Welsh pool and Oswestry area.

A motion was due to be presented today (Thursday) to Shropshire Council asking all councillors to object to the proposed 33-mile line.

The new move follows recent criticism of the power plans by a string of top level politicians including Nick Clegg, William Hague and Lord Paddy Ashdown.

And it also follows fresh criticism of the plan by Shropshire Council Leader Keith Barrow who this week said the pylons would "destroy" the landscape while members of Oswestry Rural Parish Council agreed on Tuesday night that a letter should go to the unitary authority about concerns over the siting of the pylons.

The power cable is set to be built between Cefn Coch near Llanfair Caereinion and Lower Frankton near Oswestry. Part of the line, which will take energy generated by proposed Mid Wales windfarms to the national network, will be undergrounded but the majority will be carried overhead on pylons.

The motion to today's Shropshire Council meeting has been worded by Councillor Arthur Walpole, who represents the Llanymynech area. In his motion, Councillor Walpole says: "The proposed overhead power line will have a detrimental impact in Shropshire with no perceived beneficial gain for Shropshire communities and will adversely affect our local communities, our environment and our tourist economy."

He said anxiety is being caused by National Grid carrying out consultation on the plans despite some of the proposed windfarms not yet having planning permission.

Councillor Walpole is calling for the council to "press National Grid to re-examine the justification for the overhead pylon route and to present a feasibility case for a solution using underground cables".

In response to the laying of the motion, National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said: "As we're progressing with our work, we're talking with communities and listening to people's comments."

"We're developing our proposals in the area as sensitively as possible and looking at ways we can reduce the effects of the connection. We're currently reviewing our proposals in light of feedback received during our latest consultation and our ongoing assessments to see if there are ways we can improve them."

"We know many people would like us to stop our work until the outcome of the windfarm inquiry, but we're also legally required to provide connections when requested. The detailed work and consultation that goes into developing new connections takes many years so we need to continue with our planning work so we can be ready to provide a connection should the windfarms go ahead."

• Pylons – See Page 3

Caring Ariana is backing Africa button project



Jessie Miller from the Buttons for Africa programme and Ariana Botham take a look at some of the donated buttons

WHEN young Ariana Botham heard about a project that was using buttons to provide work for women in Africa, she was so impressed she decided she wanted to get involved.

The 11-year-old from Oswestry researched the Buttons for Africa project when one of its creators, Jessie Miller, from nearby Nantmawr, received a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List for the work she has done for the scheme.

The project has given women in Ghana the chance to earn a living making heart-shaped ornaments that are then sold in the UK.

The scheme is already lifting women out of poverty and funding the building of a craft workshop.

Ariana, who goes to Our Lady & St Oswald's Catholic Primary School in Oswestry, wanted to collect buttons to send off to the project and her initial collection soon snowballed.

This week she called into Regent's Court in Oswestry to pick up more buckets full of buttons from residents at the supported living development.

Ariana's grandmother Sue Madden works at Regents Court and when she told residents of Ariana's collection they all agreed to help.

The youngster's appeal has delighted both her grandmothers.

Ariana's paternal grandmother Marilyn Botham said: "This was all her own idea.

"She was so interested in the story of the

woman who was honoured for her work she looked at what she had done.

"The Buttons for Africa project really caught her imagination and she wanted to do what she could to help.

"People have been very kind, hunting out their old buttons to send to Ghana."

Organisers of the Buttons for Africa scheme say the heart-shaped keepsake made from buttons by the African women make a great gift as each one is completely individual both in terms of the buttons selected and colours chosen. Made from both recycled and new buttons the hearts, which come in four sizes, are supplied with a Buttons for Africa information label.

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Report by Sue Austin

A 4,000-panel solar farm could be built alongside the Montgomery Canal, according to planning papers.

The Ward family has applied for planning permission to site the solar farm on its land at Manor Farm in Crickheath, near Oswestry, claiming it will be a necessary step to secure the farm's future.

But fears have been raised that building the solar farm and surrounding it with high fencing could put canal boaters off using the area.

Enthusiasts have already applied for millions of pounds in lottery cash to spruce up the stretch of the canal including the section running past Manor Farm.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust has also called for more investigations to be carried out into the plans.

The wildlife group has claimed the proposals could affect great crested newts in the area close to the canal.

Canal enthusiast Peter Richards said the application barely mentions that the site is bordered to the south by the Montgomery Canal.

He said: "The section from Crickheath to Pryce's bridge, which the proposed site overlooks, is currently part of a £4 million second stage HLF bid to be presented in June by the Canal and River Trust that should result in it being restored over the next four years.

"The towpath is part of the Wat's Dyke Way and the Shropshire Way, and the Severn Way in Wales where hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent upgrading it into a national cycleway, with improvements in Shropshire making it a well-used tourist attraction.

"It is hardly going to add to its appeal to have 100 yards of the off-side bordered by a 2.5 metre high fence surrounding 4,000 2.5 metre high solar panels, all facing south to the canal."

In a statement to Shropshire Council, Roger Parry, an agent acting on behalf of the Ward family, said: "Diversification such as the proposed development will help to make the succession to the next generation possible.

"Within the life time of this development, there will be hopefully be three generations of the Ward family all employed at Manor Farm."

A 178-year-old family Bible that disappeared 130 years ago has been returned – after being handed into a charity shop.

The Welsh language Bible was handed in to a Nightingale House Hospice shop three weeks ago.

But when staff noticed the detailed inscriptions inside the cover, they decided to try to track down more information about the family which owned it.

After an appeal on Welsh TV channel S4C, Brian and Heulyn Parry, of Llanwddyn, near Oswestry, claimed the book which had belonged to Mr Parry's great-great-grandfather John. It was handed over by Nigel Davies from the hospice.

Nigel Davies presents the 178-year-old family Bible to Brian Parry after it was found at a charity shop

Mrs Parry said: "I got quite excited when I saw it on TV. I knew straight away it was our John Parry. It was a bit of a shock. I couldn't believe it."

Inscriptions inside the cover of the Bible, published in 1837, show that it was presented to John Parry by John Owens, a minister from Llanuwchllyn, near Bala, in Gwynedd. It was passed on to Mr Parry's daughter Magdalen in March 1840 and records in the Bible show they lived at Tanymae in Llanfihangel. She went on to marry and change her surname to Davies, before later moving to England.

Now I've got the Bible it's got all the dates in it when people were born. John married a widow and then there was a David and a William, my grandfather, then David my father. I've got a son Hywel, he has three boys so it will be passed down the family."

By 1925, the Bible had travelled to Whitford in Flintshire via Carno in Montgomeryshire. The last listed owner was an Arthur Wynn Lloyd at Hendre, near Mold.

As well as the family records, it also has notes of religious writings and lists of readings.

Mr Parry said: "It's obviously something that pleases me. It was part of the family history. I knew of John Parry but I hadn't done very much research.

"Now I've got the Bible it's got all the dates in it when people were born. John married a widow and then there was a David and a William, my grandfather, then David my father. I've got a son Hywel, he has three boys so it will be passed down the family."

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Meeting is told of level of obesity

INCREASING physical activity among Oswestry's young people is a major challenge for the town after alarming statistics revealed that more than 20 per cent of its 10 and 11 year olds are overweight.

The town's local joint committee is taking responsibility for commissioning facilities and activities for young people and has a £25,000 budget to spent. It met at the Marches School on Tuesday to reveal work already underway to provide services.

Shropshire Council Leader Keith Barrow said that because of the obesity figure he was hopeful that the area would be given an extra £10,000 funding from the public health budget for youth activities.

Facts and figures outlined showed there are more than 2,000 10-19 year olds in the town with 41 per cent of them living in deprived areas. Worryingly 20.7 per cent of 10 and 11 year olds in the town were overweight.

Councillor Vince Hunt said a survey of young people yielded 881 responses which showed that more than three quarters of them did not do any activities after school or college.

A meeting open to providers of activities will be held in Castle View, Oswestry on Tuesday at 5pm to allow them to put forward ideas to the local joint committee. That will be followed by a public meeting on March 13 and a period of public consultation.

Leader is against plans for pylons

SHROPSHIRE Council Leader Keith Barrow has reiterated his opposition to National Grid's plans to build pylons in the county.

The pylons would carry a power cable from Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caereinion to Lower Frankton near Oswestry. The cable would take energy supplied from proposed Mid Wales windfarms to the national network.

But Councillor Barrow said: "I am totally against this and am concerned about the impact it will have on the countryside."

"These pylons are not normal - they are huge. They will destroy the landscape. Money would be better spent on encouraging people to use photo voltaic solar panels."

Councillor Barrow also said he was against plans for a single coal-bed methane exploratory borehole in Dudleston, near Ellesmere.

Youngster ready to help big sister

LITTLE Evie-lou Harrington is determined to put one foot in front of the other and walk a mile on Saturday to help out her older sister.

It will be a massive challenge for the seven-year-old, who just two years ago underwent a life changing operation in America to ease the symptoms of her cerebral palsy.

Before the operation she had to use a wheelchair to get around.

Now she is able to walk short distances with the aid of special sticks and continues to have intensive physiotherapy to continue to improve her mobility.

Now Evie-lou is fundraising so that her sister, nine-year-old Emilie, who also has the condition, can have the same operation.

Her challenge has touched the hearts of many, already breaking

through the £2,000 barrier with her fundraising. But the family need to raise £60,000 for the operation.

Saturday will see Evie-lou and family, friends and supporters, take part in the mile sponsored walk from the Dam at Lake Vyrnwy from 11am to raise funds for the Emilie's Leap of Faith fund.

Mum, Donna Harrington, from Llangynog said: "Emilie's mobility has

always been better than Evie's and so Evie really needed the operation first.

"When we were talking about launching an appeal for Emilie, Evie said 'what can I do to raise money?'"

"She really wants Emilie to benefit," she added.

More details are available on the Emilie's Leap of Faith Facebook page or www.justgiving.com/evie1mile www.facebook.com/Emilie'sLeapofFaith.

NEWS IN BRIEF

School closure plan sparks fear

PLANS to close secondary schools across Mid Wales will penalise students in rural areas who will be forced to spend extra time travelling, it has been claimed.

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George said he fears students will be forced to spend a large portion of their day travelling to schools rather than studying. The comments come after Powys County Council announced last month that it will be looking to close a number of schools as part of measures to reduce its budget.

Mr George pressed Huw Lewis, Welsh Government Education Minister over the issue during a discussion on schools in the Senedd.

Mr George said: "This has the potential to penalise those who live in more rural parts of Montgomeryshire and who will have to travel long distances to attend school."

The council has not yet revealed which schools might close but its cabinet agreed to move ahead with the review on January 27.

Decision on rail link is welcomed

A DECISION by Arriva Trains Wales to save two direct services which run between Birmingham and Wrexham, serving Chirk and Gobowen, has been welcomed by rail users.

The company had wanted to scrap the 7am Shrewsbury to Wrexham and 7.47 return train, but both have now been included in the May 2015 timetable.

Shrewsbury to Chester Rail Users Association which launched a campaign to save the services in September, said it was delighted at the news.

Paul Lindsay, spokesman for SCRU, which represent passenger interests along the line, said: "It is likely that without the vigorous campaigning and support of the public and politicians, this important rail service would have been lost and travellers between Wrexham and Birmingham would have been severely inconvenienced."

Blaze at property

TWO people were treated for smoke inhalation after a house fire near Oswestry.

Crews from Oswestry attended the house in West Felton at 4.40am on Friday, although it was out on arrival.

However, firefighters administered oxygen therapy to two people ahead of the arrival of paramedics.

Mayor calls for action over town's empty shops

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY'S mayor has demanded action over empty shops in the heart of the town centre.

Councillor Gareth Jones has written to the property agents marketing the large shop units that have stood unused for more than a year in Cross Street.

Councillor Jones contacted Mason Owen which is marketing the former Burtons Shop and card store in Cross Street.

He said: "I decided to write after we had numerous complaints about the state of the buildings in Cross Street.

"I have spoken to several organisations recently from schools to the University of the Third Age and the main thread of concern is the state of the empty shops.

"In the past year I have had the pleasure of opening five new shops in Oswestry and there have also been many new units opening in the market.

"Oswestry is doing well yet Cross Street has these eyesore buildings that spoil the town."

In his letter Councillor Jones writes: "The empty properties in Cross Street in particular are an embarrassment to the town as they continue to fall into disrepair. We ask as a matter of urgency that your clients address the failing condition of these buildings." He said that there had been a positive response to his plea and was hopeful his campaign would have an effect.

The mayor said: "We are pleased with the initial response that has indicated that there is interest in the buildings. Also we understand that work is to be done to tidy up the properties."

Mason Owen, which is marketing the units, declined to comment.



Oswestry Mayor Gareth Jones outside the row of empty shops in Cross Street

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Parents facing fines after absence policy introduced

Report by Sue Austin

PARENTS in Mid Wales who take their children out of school for holidays or who let their children skip lessons now risk a £60 fine.

New rules brought in by Powys County Council are, councillors say, to encourage parents to ensure their children attend school regularly to achieve their full potential at school.

Those who do not send their children to school run the risk of receiving newly introduced penalty charge notices which will increase if not paid promptly. Powys County Council has adopted a new code of conduct for penalty notices for regular non-attendance at school, following legislation by the Welsh Government. Schools are sending letters out to parents in the new half term to raise awareness and give the warning before families look at their summer holiday plans.

Councillor Arwel Jones, cabinet member for education, said that parents were now at risk of a penalty notice of £60 if their child had been off school without authorisation from the headteacher for at least 10 school sessions – the equivalent of five complete school days – and their attendance has fallen below 90 per cent.

If not paid within 28 days the amount will rise to £120, he said. This will also apply to parents of pupils who choose to take their children out of school for term-time holidays if the absence is unauthorised.

"Headteachers have been strongly advised not to authorise holidays in term time. They still have ultimate discretion to authorise holidays but only in extreme circumstances," Councillor Jones said.

"It is important that families understand the new penalty charge notices introduced by the Welsh Government so that they can avoid the risk of receiving a penalty charge notice. If your child doesn't attend school, they can't learn. They only get one chance at school and their opportunity of a successful future depends on their education."

"If the holiday is not authorised then parents may still receive a penalty charge notice if the holiday means their child misses 10 school sessions and their child's attendance falls below 90 per cent in the school year to date."

"Not since the original Luddites smashed cotton mill machinery in early 19th century England, have we seen such an organised, fanatical antagonism to progress and science."

"They call themselves humanitarians and environmentalists."

"But their policies would condemn billions to hunger, poverty and underdevelopment."

OSWESTRY'S MP Owen Paterson has accused the European Union and Greenpeace of condemning millions of people in developing countries to starvation and death by not accepting genetically modified (GM) crops.

Speaking to farmers, scientists and businessmen in Pretoria, South Africa, after a visit to farmers growing genetically modified maize, Mr Paterson, MP for North Shropshire, said advancement in plant sciences could put an end to world hunger but opponents to GM foods are preventing this from happening.

He said: "Progress in the plant sciences is opening up the promise of a second Green Revolution, one that can not only feed the nine to 10 billion people that will inhabit our planet in 2050, but feed them well – one that can finally end the shame of the nearly one billion who still go to bed every night hungry and malnourished."

"This is also a time, however, of great mischief, in which many individuals and even governments are turning their backs on progress."

"They call themselves humanitarians and environmentalists."

"But their policies would condemn billions to hunger, poverty and underdevelopment."

Underwater adventure awaits



Willow Myers and Brian Dulson take part in the performance's dress rehearsal

MEMBERS of a theatre group based in a village near Oswestry will be embarking on an underwater adventure in their next production which will be staged over the next two weekends.

The members of Tanat Theatre are all set for their musical adaptation of Charles Kingsley's story, The Water Babies.

Original music and songs have been written for the show by Jenny Miller and Eddie Matthews.

The adaptation of the story is by Gaynor Richfield and Sue Broadhurst.

Young Tom, the cruelly-treated chimney sweep's apprentice, is played by Willow Myers.

His cruel boss is played by Brian Dulson

and newcomer Sera Carpenter plays the Welsh lady who is also the mother of the water babies. Performances of the show will be in Llanrhedr Public Hall.

The performances take place on Saturday and Sunday evenings this weekend, with the shows starting at 7.30pm.

Further evening performances will take place on the weekend of March 6 and 7, starting at 7.30pm. And there will be with matinees on the Saturdays at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £6 for adults and £3 for children and are available from The Paper Shop, Post Office & Greatorex Stores in Llanrhedr, and Upstairs Downstairs in Oswestry, or can be booked by telephone on (01691) 860497.

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Toilets at attraction set to shut down because of cuts

Report by Sue Austin

ONE of the region's most visited tourist attractions could be left without public toilets after budget cuts by cash-strapped Powys County Council.

The future of all the public toilets across Powys will be unveiled next week as the county names those being taken over by town and community councils and those that are likely to have to close.

Those at the famous Pistyll Rhaeadr, which at 240 feet high is the UK's tallest single drop waterfall, will not be taken on by Llanrhedr ym Mochnant Parish Council.

Phil Facey, who runs the tea rooms and campsite at the foot of the falls, said he had been told the community council will not take over the 30-year-old toilet block. "More than 100,000 people visit the fall and walk in the surrounding countryside every year," he said.

"Tourism is such a large part of the economy of Mid Wales and yet the area's most popular attraction is to lose the public toilets," Mr Facey said he hopes that a forward thinking person will come forward with a plan to take on the toilets and perhaps combine it with another facility.

"The area really needs bunk house accommodation for instance," he said.

The clerk to Llanrhedr ym Mochnant Parish Council Pat Jones said not taking over the toilets had been a difficult decision to take. "It is with regret that we have to decline responsibility for the toilets because of the financial cost and the age and condition of the toilet block," she said.

She added the council will be taking over the toilets in the village centre, four miles from the waterfall.

Powys Council Council said its cabinet will discuss the future of public toilets on Tuesday. Councillor Wynne Jones, cabinet member with responsibility for public toilets, said: "In addition to the 15 toilets that have previously been transferred to local communities, the council is currently in the process of finalising agreements for the transfer of a further 10 toilets and are in discussions with local organisations regarding many more, with a view to completing agreements by the end of March deadline."

"The transfer of these facilities has the potential to create local employment and provide a more cost-effective service. It will also give communities more control over their local facility, while a better and more responsive service could be provided.

"I would like to thank the town and community councils and other relevant community groups for the way they have entered into discussions in positive manner, in order to secure the future provision of public toilets in their areas."

"They should have mentioned the bank accounts and the government bond," he said.

"They were blinded by desperation and couldn't afford to live."



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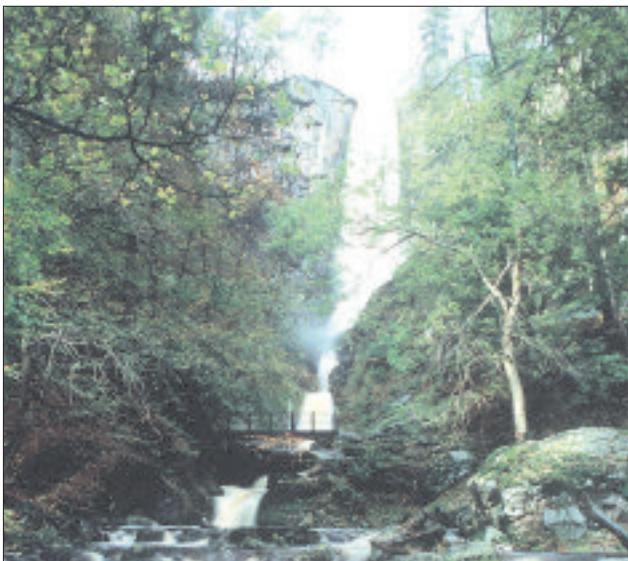
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Man jailed for assault

A MAN threw a mobile phone and a cigarette lighter at his girlfriend, striking her both times in the face, a court heard.

Gareth Ellis, 37, had lost his temper during a row with the woman after the couple had been out drinking with friends.

Ellis was jailed for a total of 12 months at Shrewsbury Crown Court, having admitted causing his then-girlfriend actual bodily harm. Ellis, of Marsland Close, St Martins, had also admitted damaging a mobile phone and using violence to enter a property on December 23.

Nicholas Wadsworth, prosecuting, said there was a row when Ellis blamed the victim because her dog had urinated in the hall of her Shrewsbury flat.

"The defendant lit a cigarette and threw

the lighter at her, striking her in the face, leaving her bottom lip bleeding and swollen," he said. "He threw her mobile phone at her as she sat on the sofa. It hit her in the face causing a cut on her forehead," he said. When she told Ellis to leave he grabbed her by the hair and put his other hand on her neck and forced her against a wall before he left the flat.

Mr Wadsworth said she could not phone the police because her phone was broken and as she was locking the door Ellis returned and forced his way in. Brendan Reedy, for Ellis, said his client was ashamed for what he had done and he had not intentionally injured the woman. He said Ellis had been taken steps to deal with anger management and his alcohol abuse.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

If anything gets under my skin it's constantly having to answer the phone to cold callers.

You know the ones I mean. Those that tell you there's a small fortune awaiting your claim in PPI payments or energy companies desperate to carry out an energy efficiency test on your property.

Being office based for 40 plus years I have been protected from these nuisance callers but now I'm working from home they are driving me to despair.

The caller often won't take "no" for an answer and even become aggressive when you insist they are not interested.

One even called back to give me a mouthful after I hung up on him.

So the next time I get a call from a PPI company I know just what to do. I'm going to be doing just what irate Richard Herman did - bill the caller for my time.

I was drawn to the national newspaper article which featured Richard's response and am now ready and waiting for the next caller.

He warned the cold calling PPI company that if they called him again he would bill them for his time at £10 a minute. The calls continued, but he kept a log and recordings and submitted a bill for £195, based on his time answering and use of electricity.

The company then denied making the calls but with the evidence carefully stored Richard took them to court.

The PPI company saw the light though and backed out before proceedings reached the courts - sending Richard a cheque for £220. They haven't called him since.

What a great idea. I can't wait for the next call.

How many of you were glued to your televisions over the last few weeks as the "Who killed Lucy" plot in Eastenders finally reached its conclusion?

I was one of the 10 million drawn to the screen by some morbid curiosity but what an anti-climax.

After months of guessing and finger pointing we were left asked to believe that a 10-year-old child committed the dastardly deed and then managed to keep quiet about topping his sister with a padded music box.

We are then expected to believe that his mother carried the body to the nearby park, unseen by just about every cast member who was out on the street that deadly night.

National newspapers blasted the news across front pages and TV news shows gave what seemed like hours of airtime to the storyline.

I'm glad to be out of the newsroom if the most important story of the day revolved around this ludicrous piece of fiction.

Is the Archers still on?



Electric cars such as the Nissan Leaf are becoming more common on Shropshire and Mid Wales roads



Reporter Jennifer Meierhans gets behind the wheel of the Nissan Leaf electric car for the first time



The Nissan Leaf may be electric but it still has all the standard features you would expect

WORKING FOR YOU



Last week saw the release of the new employment figures and with it a new record.

Employment is now higher than when records began in 1971.

The total number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in the North Shropshire constituency in January 2015 was 948.

This represents a rate of 1.8 per cent of the economically active population aged 16 to 64, 636 lower than in January 2014.

Unemployment is 5.7 per cent nationally, its lowest point for more than six years. The Government is committed to lowering unemployment and helping people back into work, and I am proud that there are now over 1.75 million more people in jobs than in 2010.

With more than two million private sector jobs and 760,000 more businesses since 2010, we are making progress, but there is still more to do, which is why we need to keep working to deliver more growth and security.

North Shropshire has a great number of excellent businesses both small and large. These make an enormous contribution to the local and national economy.

As the economy grows, businesses grow too and many successful local firms are expanding. ABP is doubling the size of their abattoir and they confirmed to me when I visited that when it is finished there will be a number of new jobs available to local people.

I realised I had forgotten to put the car into eco mode and had my foot down all the way, with the heating and radio blasting.

I took it easier on the way back and made it home just as the battery displayed zero.

It highlighted to me how important it is to adjust your driving to get the most out of an electric car.

Most days I drove seven miles in to the Shrewsbury office with a couple of trips to the Ketley HQ and a few social trips out and about in the evenings and I loved it.

Charging

I had no problem charging up in my garage every night and only tried out the charge point at Asda in Shrewsbury to experience what it was like.

With the majority of drivers travelling less than 80 miles a day, the cars are most likely to be charged at home and the rapid chargers used only on long journeys.

But if I was going a really long way, Nissan offers Leaf owners the option to borrow a petrol or diesel car for two weeks a year free of charge.

I didn't miss queuing at a petrol station or handing over £40 every time.

And I was really thrilled with the smart phone app which meant I could remotely time the car to start charging on cheap electricity tariffs in the evening or time the heating to come on in the morning while I am still lying in bed.

If I was regularly driving more than 100 miles a day then I think I might find it a bit of a pain to stop half way for a charge.

But the Leaf certainly proved it could take the pace and met all my driving demands.



Reporter Jennifer Meierhans charges up the Nissan Leaf electric car

owning a Leaf will only add about £260 a year to the average driver's electricity bill. I don't have a home wall charger so for me the regular three pin plug in the garage filled it up over night.

I realised that to own an electric car you really need off street parking where you can access a charger at home.

The second socket is for rapid charging at service stations and public car parks which is mostly free and can take the battery from zero to 80 per cent full in 30 minutes.

Once up to speed I could not wait to get behind the wheel. I've always driven manual cars and the Leaf drives like an automatic so only using my right foot took a little getting used to. But after a few weeks I couldn't believe how easy it was just to hit stop and go.

It really does go - unlike petrol and diesel cars which you have to rev, the

power is instant. And it's almost silent too - the amount of people who wandered out in front of me because they hadn't heard me coming was astonishing.

The steering was really light and the speed and agility meant it was perfect for nipping around town.

Nissan say a full charge can get you as far as 120 miles provided you drive economically but over the week I got about 80 to 100.

I had to ask what would happen if the battery ran out and it turns out it's just like running out of fuel - easily avoided.

The battery charge is displayed as a percentage just like a mobile phone and your remaining mileage range is always recalculating and can actually recharge thanks to brake energy regeneration.

But if disaster does strike there's a number to call roadside assistance

I AM BEING MADE REDUNDANT - CAN CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE IN MY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STILL BE ENFORCED?

Q: I have just been told I am being made redundant. My contract of employment contains restrictive covenants regarding client confidentiality and what work I may or may not do with another company if I leave. Can these covenants still be enforced if I have been left with no choice but to leave my job because the work is being denied me through redundancy? If they can be enforced, is there any way of getting them removed?

A: As a rule of thumb a restrictive covenant will only be enforceable if it specifically protects the employer's legitimate business interests, and only applies for a reasonable time period. In practice this usually means that you cannot approach any of your employer's clients or contacts for business but a lot depends on your role and status.

Separately at common law you must not disclose confidential information or use your knowledge of your employer's products or practices to damage their business. Your employer cannot, however, restrict your ability to work at all.

As soon as you receive the terms of the redundancy package you should seek proper legal advice from a solicitor who has experience in employment matters - because whilst restrictive covenants are sometimes unenforceable, being sued is a costly way of finding out. Most employers will expect you to try and negotiate better terms for your redundancy and it may be that your employer is more concerned about protecting his trade secrets than stopping you competing so there could be room for negotiation.

When it comes to getting released from covenants, a solicitor is likely to achieve a better result than you can. Similarly, a solicitor may be able to achieve a better package offer. Whatever happens though, you should keep a record off the company premises - of all discussions that takes place.

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Time for UK to move on from the EU

I HAVE been writing, (and reading), about the European Union for more than 40 years.

And I have no trouble recognising the selective tripe written on the subject by the few pro-federalists remaining.

I do accept that it is difficult to promote, or even defend such a grossly expensive, undemocratic so-called union that has been on its economic knees now for seven years and has failed to produce acceptable accounts for the last 20.

There are few benefits or advantages to write about.

Whereas the institution itself provides

me with a rich seam of fraud and corruption, of malpractice and mismanagement.

It is renowned world-wide for its lax administration and fiscal incompetence.

The EU solves every problem by throwing money at it. Our money.

It throws it at politicians, MEPs, peers, the BBC, education and the press.

It throws it at political parties which support it.

But not to those who do not.

From where does the notion that the EU has reduced our energy bills by 10 per cent?

The information I have is that those bills have been increased by at least 20 per cent

via unreachable global warming targets set by Brussels and added to our bills!

The Working Time Directive, the EU Arrest Warrant and the Open Borders Policy – just three policies which have ruined our National Health Service, defied and defiled the justice system, and turned our population into a multinational meatball where no one feels safe.

The EU is a dual dictatorship run by Germany and France.

Britain's influence on that dictatorship is zero and it is time we moved on!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Letters

The UK is in debt but who do we owe all the money to?

MONEY appears to be created, without actually being earned, in two ways.

The first is the old dodge of printing the stuff, of course, which led to such fun and games in the 1920s in Germany's Weimar Republic when inflation ran amok.

Most economists believe the printing of money during an acute economic recession was at the root of a situation exemplified when a wicker basket full of Deutschmark notes was stolen, with the notes cast aside. Every day millions of pounds of "new money" rolls off the Royal Mint presses under the Bank of England's policy of quantitative easing. How long can this continue?

The other method is the more up to date one of conjuring it out of thin air, or to be precise cyberspace. In a recent letter to the Shropshire Star, J Cliff of Shrewsbury poses the question "Where does money come from?" J Cliff reminds us that when a country borrows from the IMF, this august body simply types the amount agreed into a computer, presses 'Send' and the same figure emerges on the computer at the borrowing country's treasury.

The debtor/creditor relationship changes only as figures on a balance sheet, with no redistribution of real assets. I would suggest that when this happens no real money is involved at all. Any more than it is if I go to my corner shop and use my debit card to spend £20 on some groceries.

At the Halifax Bank a file called S Evans will indicate I have £20 less to my name, and the shop's balance will rise by the same amount. In contrast, a sovereign state like the United Kingdom appears to just borrow the money and spend it, and then borrow more, regardless of whether the figures add up.

It is said we as citizens of the UK now collectively owe a trillion pounds. Will somebody please tell me, and I make no apology for repeating this question, to whom do we owe this vast sum of money?

SAM EVANS
Oswestry

Idea of infinity is not easy to grasp

TOP people from the UK paraded in France, including David Cameron, in support of democracy and freedom of speech.

Surely this was hypocrisy as we no longer have freedom of speech in this country. The politically correct brigade together with the do-gooders have put a stop to it aided by Government ministers such as Chris Grayling, the Secretary of State for Justice.

I give you an example; a magistrate with Christian beliefs has been suspended and told to attend a "diversity and equalities course". His crime: stating that he believed a child needed both a father and a mother.

What has happened to common sense in this country? Soon the politically correct thought police will be arresting thousands of people with Christian beliefs for having such thoughts as this.

To the magistrate I would ask Grayling to back me or sack me, if he sacks you take him and the Government to the human rights court and see if they see it the same way.

D L BARRETT
Arleston

I WOULD like to pay tribute to my husband's carers.

He is suffering from Alzheimer's and for the past year they have enabled me, at 90 years of age, to keep my husband at home.

A letter arrived from the care company stating their care would finish on January 25.

Fortunately, social services will find replacements for us – yet more kind and dedicated people.

EVE PLATER
Powys

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Tributes paid to great carers

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EVE PLATER
Powys

Hypocrisy seems to be on march in this country

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EVE PLATER
Powys

Fracking issue is causing a lot of worry in county

A LOT of people now are concerned about the environment and the impact of fracking in Shropshire.

People are not stupid, as information on this subject is readily available, from all over the world, about what is wrong with this method of extracting energy. From the USA and Australia, to Romania, and of course, Blackpool, where there were small earthquakes. If the main parties don't listen to people's concerns, that is only going to help the Greens win seats at the next election.

I agree that the earth is a self-regulating mechanism, and global warming is caused by solar activity on the sun. As for man-made global warming, this has been proved to be false by Piers Corbyn, (a man who has correctly predicted storms and droughts). By supporting the CO2 myth, the "Greens" are inadvertently encouraging the global corporations they are fighting against and causing fuel poverty by the green levy on fuel bills.

MARK NORWOOD
Whittington

Park Hall, Oswestry



This week's nostalgia picture shows an image of what Park Hall at Oswestry used to look like. This unposted Valentine's series postcard has no message but in the address box is "Private J. Hodson, Band 9th Lancers, Potchefstroom, South Africa." Postcard picture loaned by Diana Humphreys, of Maesbrook, near Oswestry.

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■ Full day as we begin visiting the heritage town of Athlone, where its town walls rank amongst the best in the British Isles. Dating from 1310 the walls originally enclosed an area of some 28 hectares. We will then visit Galway, one of Ireland's largest and busiest cities. With free time to explore the shops in Eyre Square and spend time at the historic Cathedral, take a look at the fine 14th century townhouse known as Lynch's Castle or walk the medieval walls around the city.

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Exhibition time to be extended

AN exhibition showing a rare collection of photographs of the old village of Llanwddyn and the construction of the Vyrnwy dam and lake will extend its opening hours on its final day to allow as many people as possible to see the pictures.

In 2013 Powysland Museum in Welshpool was successful in acquiring a photographic album with some very old and interesting photos of the Vyrnwy Valley before and during construction of the dam.

The photographs give a fascinating glimpse of the old village of Llanwddyn with many of its inhabitants – some dressed in their finest for the photographer. Most of the photographs show aspects of the construction of the dam and the lake, which was an engineering feat for its time.

The exhibition is due to end on Tuesday but opening will be extended until 7pm on that day.

The album was bought at auction with financial support from the RU Sayce Bequest.

Motoring advice sessions available

YOUNG drivers in Powys are being urged to sign up to a course that will help them gain experience and skills to reduce their risk of accidents.

Pass Plus Cymru is a road safety scheme being offered to young drivers by Powys County Council's Road Safety Unit.

Aimed at motorists aged 17 to 25 years old and who hold a full driving licence, the course consists of a two-and-a-half hour theory session, followed by a nine hour practical session with an approved driving instructor.

For more information or to book a place, people should visit www.dragondriver.com

Guide dog supporters reach £50k funds total

By Pam Kingsley

A GROUP which raises fund for guide dogs is celebrating after reaching £50,000 in three years – enough to pay for a guide dog puppy's training and support throughout its life.

The Oswestry Guide Dogs fundraising branch was formed three years ago and has held numerous events and collections in that time to bring in money for the charity.

Lin Stapley, who is the branch organiser and a guide dog user, said: "I am truly humbled by the amount of money that people put in our collection buckets and boxes and the support that people continue to give us. This includes those people that organise fundraising events for us and those who give their time to help us, especially those members of our committee who help regularly with events. The lifetime costs of one of these life-changing dogs is £50,000, and to have raised this much in just three years shows how generous people are in the Oswestry and the surrounding areas.

"That money covers the cost of food and vets bills. Guide Dogs cover those costs so that no one is excluded from having a dog."

"There are lots of events planned for 2015 including a concert by The Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir and other performers, charity stalls at many events plus store and street collections in Oswestry and Ellesmere." Among the recent fundraising efforts was a sponsored walk up Snowdon by group supporters Lauren and Steve Kynaston.

Mrs Stapley has had her dog, Woody, for five years, and said the difference he has made to her life has been incredible.



Lin Stapley and her guide dog Woody with group supporters Lauren and Steve Kynaston

Spineexpert give speech to students

INTERNATIONAL spinal injuries expert Professor Wagih El Masri was the special guest speaker at a recent meeting of Shrewsbury High School's Biomedical Society.

With more than 40 years in the highly specialised field of treating spinal injuries, Professor El Masri has had an impact on the lives of thousands of people.

He retired from Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital last year after 31 years and is currently Clinical Professor of Spinal Injuries at Keele University.

Addressing an audience of students from both the high school and other schools from around Shropshire the lecture on 'Traumatic Spinal Injury – The Nature of the Beast' provided an opportunity for the pupils to gain an insight into a field of medicine from one of its pioneers.

Shrewsbury High School Biomedical Society president Sarah Gentle said: "The fascinating talk left everyone with plenty to think about."

Professor El Masri discussed the detrimental effects of spinal cord injury, using patient examples and gave us further biological knowledge about the spine and available treatments."

Cash boost for children's group

A VILLAGE church congregation has raised more than £1,300 for a charity that helps vulnerable children.

Whittington Parish Church members have recently donated in the Children's Society boxes that they distributed in the community last year. The initiative saw £714 donated through the boxes. The money will be added to the £645 donated by people who attended the Christmas Eve Christingle service at the church.

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Come to sunny LLANDUDNO this summer

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is organising, as it did last year, a holiday for older people at the Queen's Hotel, Llandudno from 11th to 18th July 2015. The hotel is on the seafront, near to shops and cafes and has two lifts.

This holiday is for people who find it hard or impossible to go on holiday independently. There are special arrangements for those who use a wheelchair. Those who are wheelchair dependent must provide their own carer.

Anyone in Shropshire may apply.

The cost of accommodation at the Queen's Hotel is £305 for the week; this includes dinner bed and breakfast. Transport to and from Llandudno is provided, from various pick up points around the County, at a cost of £50. There are daily excursions into North Wales and for these there will be a small charge of £1 per trip. There is entertainment in the hotel every evening.

There are a limited number of single rooms. However, we welcome applications from those willing to share twin or double rooms.

Please note

- If you need a carer/escort, you must make your own arrangements
- Your carer must be able to take full responsibility, must be paid for and be over 18 years
- You will need pocket money for lunches, presents etc.
- A limited amount of financial assistance may be available

For further information and application forms, please telephone (01743) 233123
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Application forms will be sent out 27th February to all who have requested them.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Chipping delay disappointment

THE RSPCA Cymru says it is disappointed that plans to introduce compulsory microchipping legislation for dogs by the Welsh Government will now not be introduced next month.

The Welsh Government says it now wants to introduce legislation requiring the compulsory microchipping of dogs in Wales by the spring of 2016. An earlier target of March this year failed to materialise.

RSPCA Cymru's head of external affairs Claire Lawson said: "We have been disappointed with the delay of this legislation, but welcome this opportunity to improve on the previous draft. We will continue to campaign for an annual dog registration scheme to ensure the validity of the microchip database."

Cashless payments are on their way

CASHLESS payments will be introduced at schools across Powys during the next school year.

The county council is exploring a new system to allow cashless payments for a range of transactions, including buying school meals and parental payments. The aim is to reduce the risks and costs of cash transactions within schools. It is hoped the first cashless system will be introduced at a Powys school during 2015/16.

Councillor Phil Pritchard, cabinet member for business services at Powys County Council, said: "When fully implemented these changes are expected to ensure a fully integrated parental pay and cashless system that will mean improvements for everyone including schools, parents and pupils."

Volunteers needed to help visitors at castle

By Dominic Robertson

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help out at Powis Castle.

The National Trust wants people on hand to chat to visitors at the castle and is holding an open day on Saturday for people to find out more.

Between 11am and 1pm prospective volunteers will be able to meet current helpers and be shown around the castle before finding out more about opportunities over a cup of tea.

Swantje Staar, volunteering and community involvement co-ordinator at Powis Castle, said: "This year we have more exciting volunteering opportunities than ever before.

"Whether it's playing the grand piano in the ballroom or giving a 'behind the scenes' tour of our wonderful gardens, there's something for everyone. We're always open to suggestions too, so come along."

"Time commitment is flexible, so you can decide how much time you'd like to give. From once a week, to once a month or ad hoc, we'll be happy to have you involved."

"Training is provided for all roles and the National Trust reimburses the cost of travel expenses. Whether you're looking to learn new skills, enhance your CV or meet new people, we can offer exciting volunteer opportunities for everyone."

"From garden tour guides and visitor receptionists to ballroom musicians and shop volunteers, why not come along and see what inspires you?"

To book a space phone (01938) 551929.



Volunteers are needed to help out at Powis Castle

Fire service in plea for more crews

FIRE chiefs in Mid Wales are calling on people who live and work in the region to become on-call firefighters.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said it is looking for people who live within a 10 minute radius of a station to come forward.

Aled Lewis, service spokesman, said: "On-call firefighters are an essential part of the emergency services network and come from all walks of life. They have often chosen a career outside of the fire service, but also wish to serve their community as a firefighter, ready to respond to emergencies, prevent fire and rescue incidents from happening and protect people and property across Mid and West Wales. Apart from a few hours a week for training sessions and to carry out other pre-arranged duties, on-call firefighters only attend the fire station when they have received an emergency call-out."

"It is impossible to predict how often you will be called out, but the average is approximately two to three times a week for a couple of hours and times you need to live within 10 minutes of an on-call station."

Call (01267) 242636 for details.

Fundraising quiz will be staged

A FUNDRAISING quiz evening will be held at the Green Dragon, Buttington, near Welshpool, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm. Entry is £2.50 and everyone is welcome – just turn up on the night.

For more information contact Freda Davies on (01938) 552349.



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12 Petrol prices in region on the increase once again

THE price of petrol at the pumps is creeping up again, putting paid to hopes of the £1 litre.

The average cost of a litre of petrol in Shropshire and Mid Wales is now 108.28p – almost 2p a litre more than this year's February 1 low point of 106.39p, the AA said.

Diesel is now averaging 115.06p a litre compared with 113.42p on February 1. There remain large variations in price between towns in Shropshire, with prices ranging from 104.7p to 110.9p for petrol. And diesel in the region ranges from 110p to 116p.

The only good news for road users is that petrol in mid-February 2015 is still cheaper than the mid-January average price of 108.91p a litre, while diesel is still less expensive than the mid-January price of 116.11p.

Northern Ireland's average of 107.6p a litre for petrol is currently the cheapest in the UK, while drivers in Wales and the West Midlands are paying most, averaging 108.6p a litre.

Diesel is least expensive in Northern Ireland, averaging 114.2p a litre, while it costs most in East Anglia, at 115.6p. The AA said its members' suspicion that pump prices would quickly start going up appeared well founded.

Last month a quarter of AA members said they were still keeping a tight lid on car use despite the low prices.

Sarah Probert, the business curriculum leader at Walford and North Shropshire College, has designed the incubator to nurture young people who want to start their own businesses and to expand on the spirit of enterprise throughout the college and local community.

Ms Probert said: "We are truly servicing the needs of our local community, offering our services to support business start-ups and youth enterprise. We continue to foster the next generation of start-ups and youth enterprises, whilst supporting the growth of our business community."

"The beauty of business is that at its heart is opportunity, and this should always be accessible to all and a place where everyone is accepted. This is essential to our guiding principles. In the future, I see a legacy of sustainable enterprise societies fostering and nurturing the growth of enterprising spirit and future business start-ups for generations to come."

The launch will take place tomorrow (Friday) from 11am to 1pm at the college's Oswestry Campus. Robert Bland, the High Sheriff of Shropshire, will open the event, and Daniel Kawczynski, MP for Shrewsbury, and Mandy Thorn, chairwoman of the Shropshire Business Board and member of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, will also be attending.

For more information call the college on (01691) 688000.

New business growth scheme set for launch

Story by Pam Kingsley

YOUNG entrepreneurs will be able to get support and advice from a 'business incubator' which is being launched in Oswestry.

Sarah Probert, the business curriculum leader at Walford and North Shropshire College, has designed the incubator to nurture young people who want to start their own businesses and to expand on the spirit of enterprise throughout the college and local community.

Ms Probert said: "We are truly servicing the needs of our local community, offering our services to support business start-ups and youth enterprise. We continue to foster the next generation of start-ups and youth enterprises, whilst supporting the growth of our business community."

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For more information call the college on (01691) 688000.

New credit union to serve villages



FAIRshare's John Harrower and Nick Heard of Three Parishes Big Local Partnership launch the scheme

A NEW credit union has been launched in villages near Oswestry along with savings clubs for young people.

The FAIRshare credit unit has already held its first open afternoons in Weston Rhyn and St Martins.

The Gobowen launch will take place on Tuesday next week at the

Gobowen Scout Hut from 2.30 until 4.30pm. The Three Parishes Big Local project has joined forces with the FAIRshare Credit Union to help residents stay away from loan sharks and payday lenders.

There will be a weekly FAIRshare Service Point in each of the three villages along with budgeting support.

FAIRshare members have access to flexible, low cost loans from £50 to £7,500 borrowed over anything from a few weeks up to five years. Interest charges from only 0.83 per cent per month, are calculated on the reducing balance – not the original loan value – and the amount borrowed is based on income and expenditure.

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More information and a short video clip is available at www.wnsc.ac.uk/apprenticeships-at-wnsc

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Plans laid down for big carnival

PADDINGTON Bear, the raccoon from the Walkers crisps advert and a donkey that appeared in Heartbeat will be starring in a circus scene at Welshpool Carnival this year.

The carnival, organised by Welshpool Town Council, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25.

Floats, groups and walkers are invited to join the procession for the chance to win cash prizes. The parade will leave Berriew Street Car Park at 1pm and go around the town before ending at Maes Y Dre fields.

Alongside the floats and circus will be a horse and carriage for the Victory Queen, bay llamas and other animals in a petting corner, a Viking re-enactment, crazy golf, ferret racing, a dog show, duck racing, and donkey and pony rides.

There will be displays of classic cars and performances by the Guisfield school dancers, the fire service and birds of prey.

Outside the arena there will be children's games, a funfair, bouncy castles, side shows and quad bikes.

Disability group to meet in town

THE Shropshire Disability Network will hold its spring meeting at Oswestry Cricket Club on March 12.

The network was formed in 2008 to provide a collective voice for disabled people across Shropshire.

Mark Allan, technical director from Orthopaedics Limited in Lancashire, will talk about the company's work making artificial joints for the medical profession.

Jo Allmond, mother of Jess, who has learning and physical disabilities, will talk about their book 'Jess the Goth Fairy' which is based on Jess's childhood drawings.

Tramway restoration plan boosted by new land deal

VOLUNTEERS on an historic tramway near Chirk are set to make great strides in restoring the track and building a locomotive shed to allow it to run trams for the first time in 80 years.

The Glyn Valley Tramway Trust is on the verge of completing a deal which will secure 300 metres of trackbed once used by the Glyn Valley Tramway.

The section, known as Chirk Straight, is between Hand Lane Bridge - the road bridge over the national network line at Chirk station - and Ty Ririd cutting.

Report by Pam Kingsley

Landowners The Caravan Club of Great Britain will give the trust a 60-year lease on a peppercorn rent covering both the section of trackbed and Tunnel Field, which adjoins the trackbed at Chirk.

Members of the trust have been working for years to clear the line and restore the route to make the reopened tramway into a visitor attraction.

David Cooper, spokesman for the trust, explained the significance of the latest development. He said: "This will enable the trust to create access to a planned locomotive shed next to Hand Lane Bridge on the

Chirk Straight side. The trust secured planning permission in 2012 to rebuild a mile-long section of the old Glyn Valley Tramway from Chirk station to Pontfaen, west of Ty Ririd cutting. With this agreement reached for the first section of trackbed, the pace towards reviving a section of the long-lost line should now accelerate markedly."

"The focus during 2015 will be on clearing the trackbed in preparation for track laying. We plan to restore the original Glyn Valley Tramway platform at Chirk, which was located immediately behind the main line platform, and build a station for the narrow gauge line on the location of the original."

Scholarship joy for student

A 21-year-old from Llansantffraid has been awarded a British Poultry Council scholarship.

Isaac Bebb is in the second year of a four-year course studying for a BSc Hons degree in agriculture at Harper Adams University, Newport.

He has been awarded £4,500 towards his second year studies.

Mr Bebb has also won a paid work placement for his third year with Cargill, one of the world's largest farming businesses.

And he has also the possibility of further funding for his final year of his studies at Harper Adams.

Mr Bebb, a former pupil of Oswestry School, said: "I would like to thank Cargill for opening a door for me into one of the world's biggest poultry companies.

"I look forward to working for them during my placement year, experiencing all aspects of broiler production."



Work parties have been working hard to restore the old Glyn Valley tramway line

Figures reveal level of crime among young

SHROPSHIRE'S youngest criminal is aged just seven - one of six children aged under 10 to have been accused of crimes in the county in the past three years.

And in Powys the youngest child accused of a crime was just six years old, one of 10 children aged under 10 to be involved in crime in the past year.

In 2012 and 2013 six children under 10 were accused of five crimes within the West Mercia Police area.

These included the seven-year-old and an eight-year-old accused of criminal damage to a vehicle in Shropshire in 2012. And in Telford & Wrekin over the same year a nine-year-old was accused of causing criminal damage to a dwelling, another nine-year-old was accused of other criminal damage, and an eight-year-old was accused of assault with injury.

In 2013 two nine-year-olds were accused of racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress, one in Shropshire and one in Telford & Wrekin. There were no under 10s accused of crimes in the area last year.

In Powys last year there were 10 under 10s accused of eight offences with the youngest being just six. Dyfed Powys Police reported that three six-year-olds were accused of criminal damage while a further two six-year-olds were involved in causing criminal damage to vehicles. And in one case a seven-year-old was accused of a sexual assault on a girl aged under 13.

There was one eight-year-old accused of assault without injury while three children, one aged seven and two aged nine, were accused of assault with injury.

The age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10 years old. This means that children under 10 can't be arrested or charged with a crime.

School event set to inspire women

A SCHOOL near Oswestry will be hosting an International Women's Day event to inspire achievement in local girls and women.

Adcote School, at Little Ness, will be holding the event at the school's Great Hall, between 10am and 12.30pm on March 7.

Female representatives from numerous walks of life including the Army, business, construction, education, finance, law, medicine and media will be speaking at the free event, which is open to women of all ages and sponsored by Santander.

Major Brettell of the 4th Battalion, The Mercian Regiment, Anne Fisher, Hatchers Solicitors partner and Shropshire business ambassador, Shirley Tart OBE, royal correspondent

of MNA Newspapers, Catherine Merriman, consultant surgeon and Kate Fawcett, Oxford University graduate and member of the Birmingham Conservatoire, are five of the 10 women who will be attending the event as speakers.

The BBC presenter Vicki Archer will also be holding a question and answer session to conclude the morning.

Hazel Wakefield, director of admissions at the school, said: "As Shropshire's only all-girls independent school, we are always keen to celebrate female success and the event is also aimed at giving our pupils the opportunity to be inspired by stories of careers in a variety of fields."

The event is being organised to coincide with Adcote School's open morning.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Final call made for art display

A FINAL call has been made for artists and makers to submit their entries to the National Eisteddfod of Wales, which will this year be held at Meifod near Welshpool in August.

This year a new experimental show will feature fewer artists and show more of their work. Artwork by up to 20 artists will be selected by artist blacksmith Angharad Pearce Jones and independent curators Elaine Marshall and Michael Nixon.

Applications in both fine and applied art are invited, including the moving image and performance art. The closing date for entries is Sunday.

The National Eisteddfod exhibition is open to any person born in Wales, or with one of their parents born in Wales, or any person who has lived or worked in Wales for the three years prior to August 1 2015, or any person who is able to speak or write in the Welsh language.

To enter or for more information visit www.eisteddfod.org.uk/english/2015.

Friday night is school film night

SATURDAY Night at the Movies could soon become Friday Night at the Marches thanks to a new community cinema venture in Oswestry.

The Marches School in Morda Road has launched the initiative to provide parents, students and members of the community with the opportunity to watch big name films at an affordable price. It is being supported by town centre-based Kinoculture Cinema.

The first movie of the Marches Movie programme, The Boxtrolls, aired on Tuesday last week in the school hall. Future dates have already been set for March 27, April 24, May 22 and June 26.

By Pam Kingsley

DOZENS of youngsters brushed up on their ball skills at a series of sports camps during the half-term break.

The events are run by Ball Sports Community Coaching and took place at Oswestry School.

Neil Prescott, of Ball Sports, said the sessions, which were open to children aged from three to 15 years old, were hugely popular with children and parents alike.

He said: "It's always a challenge for working parents to juggle childcare with their work commitments during the school holidays, so we find our half-term sessions are always very well received."

"The multi sports camps at Oswestry School were a great success and we probably saw at least 100 children over the course of the week."

"The sessions included a wide variety of sports, from football to basketball, and we even did swimming too which is a real bonus of running the camps at Oswestry School."

Ball Sports Community Coaching, which is based in Telford, runs holiday camps across Shropshire and also delivers coaching sessions at numerous schools.

Steve Lalley, who runs the company with Mr Prescott, said: "It's really gratifying that more parents are seeing the benefits of encouraging their children to get active."

"Our holiday camps are open to both boys and girls aged from four to 14 years old and ability is irrelevant. The success of our camps has been down to the fact that kids love them and want to come back rather than just being down to rising demand from parents."



Evie and Alfie Lawrence enjoyed the ball skills sports event as part of half term activities at Oswestry School

NHS files left at site says group

CONFIDENTIAL records of vulnerable patients were left in an empty building for four years after the NHS "hastily" left a day centre, it has been claimed.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Trust, which provides mental health services across the two counties, left about 30 files at the Chartley Centre in Stafford when it closed its doors in 2011.

The documents include patients' names, address, diagnosis, and treatment. The building's landlord, The Interlink Pension Fund, has been involved in a dispute with NHS bosses over the state of the building – and the fact that medical records were left in a room at the site. Fund trustee Michael Snape said the NHS body departed in "haste" at the end of its lease after leaving the building in a state of disrepair.

A trust spokeswoman confirmed the building was vacated in September 2011 and a fee was agreed with the landlord to pay for damage. She said: "We are endeavouring to make contact with Mr Snape to ascertain what records he is referring to. Should these prove to be trust patient records we will follow the proper procedure."

Rock singer will play at town hall

DIRECT from the USA, blues and rock singer Becki Brindle will be playing a gig at Welshpool Town Hall on Saturday as part of her debut UK tour.

Inducted in the New York Blues Hall of Fame, Becki has played with many blues and rock 'n' roll legends, including Jerry Lee Lewis, John Sebastian and Kris Kristofferson.

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"Miruji helped me lose 3 stone & I feel better in every way"

ANN, 69, has lost three stone, ditched her painkillers and "got her life in order" since beginning therapy at Miruji.

The former fraud investigator from Shrewsbury, was forced to retire with agonising back pain and said she was taking eight strong painkillers just to get through each day.

She began using the Miruji chair and has not looked back. "I noticed the benefit right away," she said. "I've had a terribly bad back for most of my life. I've tried massage and various other interventions but the pain still prevailed."

She said that the Miruji winning formula of massage and powerful, motivational messages succeeded where all else had failed.

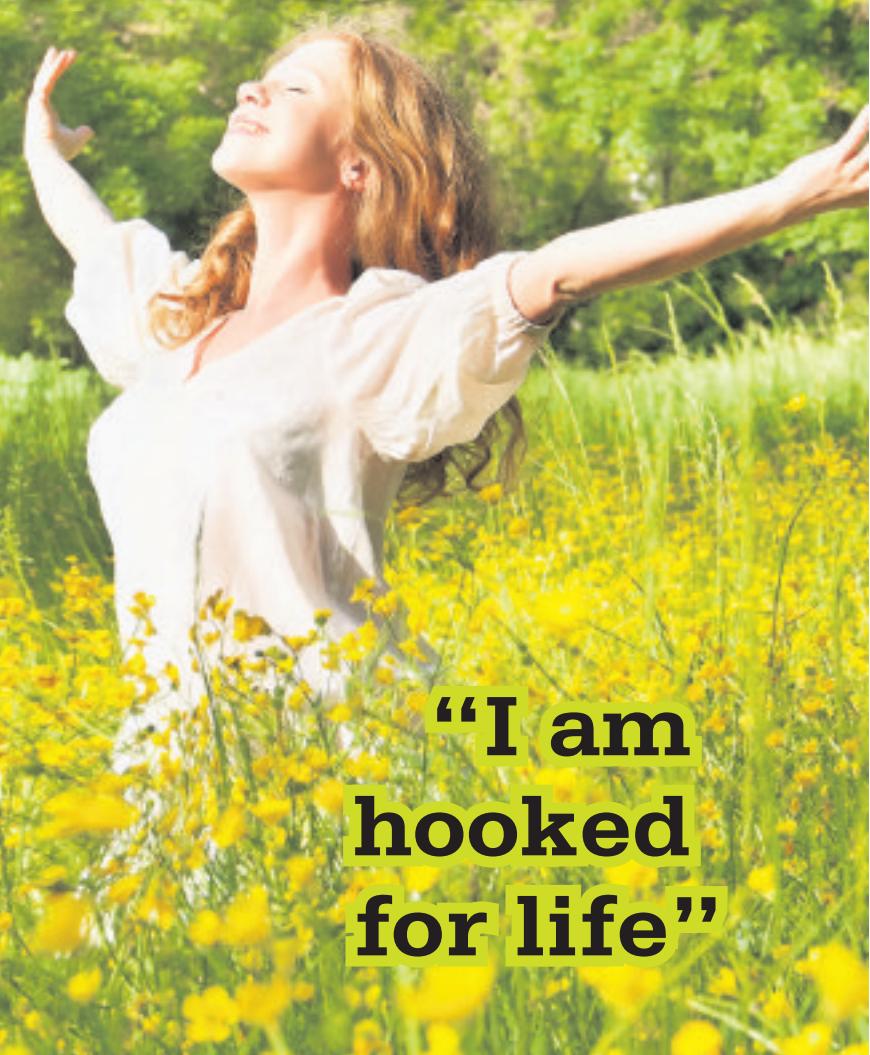
"I think it is the deep massage which really does relax the muscles and takes away stress; but it is also the audio, which is an impartial voice that reaffirms what you can do for yourself and gives you that extra bit of a push to keep going and reap the benefits," she added.

Ann said she lost three stones "very quickly", taking herself in hand after the audio encouraged her to "get her life in order".

"I have done just that," she said. "I have sorted my paperwork, cleaned out wardrobes and cupboards and done the garden. Every aspect of my life has changed. I am fortunate to have married a very tolerant man who put up with my pain but he is so much happier now that we can do things together."

"We're going out and enjoying life more. We've been on holiday to Spain and France and we go to exhibitions and events in Quarry Park. I do still take some painkillers but I am in no way dependent on them as I used to be. I know Miruji may not be the ultimate solution to my back pain but it is very, very effective and extremely helpful."

"I am hooked for life. I am convinced that it should be offered on the NHS as an alternative to medical interventions, surgery and group therapies."



"I am hooked for life"

NHS MANAGER SAYS: "I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER, RELAXED & POSITIVE!"

NHS MANAGER Sonia began coming to Miruji, attracted by the idea of having some time to herself, for relaxation and with a view to losing some weight.

She has a very busy job, with competing demands upon her time and is mum to an eight-year-old daughter.

"What was remarkable was not so much the weight-loss, although I did lose half a stone," she said, "but it was what I would call the 'well-ness factor'. I felt so much better – more centred, relaxed and positive. There was a whole range of benefits to it that I hadn't considered when I started out."

Sonia, 44, from Shrewsbury, says it was when she couldn't go for three weeks that she realised what MBT was doing for her.

"It was only then that I fully appreciated all the benefits," she said. "It

leaves me feeling so much calmer. I used to wake up a lot through the night. Now I'm sleeping so much deeper and I wake up refreshed and revitalised.

"My husband has noticed that since going to Miruji I'm a bit less snappy, more reasonable and content in myself."

"I would say that above all, I have gained a sense of peace. I think it is having that little bit of me time, twice a week. You sit in that chair, relaxing and listening to the audio knowing it is doing weird and wonderful things for you."

She has also changed her eating habits and ditched diet sodas. "It teaches you look after yourself and your body. It restores your self-respect. I definitely believe it should be available on the NHS, but that's just my view. I wish I had a chair in my office."

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Health training funds welcomed

A MID Wales Assembly member has welcomed £80 million of funding for health training in Wales.

Rebecca Evans, Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales, hailed the announcement of the funding by Wales' health minister Mark Drakeford.

The Government says that the money will be used to increase training places for the next generation of healthcare professionals by 16 per cent next year.

The number of nurses being trained in 2015 to 2016 will increase by more than a fifth (22 per cent), while the number of paramedic places available will increase by 161 per cent compared to the 2014 to 2015 academic year.

Mrs Evans said: "Some of the more rural parts of Wales can struggle to find staff for all the health care positions they need. This investment in the training of the health care staff of tomorrow will help to ensure we have the qualified staff we require to run the world class health care service that is the NHS."

Quiz nights set to be held in town

PEOPLE are being invited to take part in monthly quiz nights being held by the mayor of Welshpool.

Councillor Malcolm Douglass is hosting the quizzes at the Smithfield Bell in the town on the second Wednesday of each month.

Three dates have been confirmed so far - March 11, April 8 and May 13.

Entry costs £1 per person and the proceeds will go to Councillor Douglass's chosen charities of Hope House, Wales Air Ambulance and the World Wildlife Fund.

There is no need to register in advance, people can turn up and pay on the night. Each quiz will start at 7pm.

Report by Sue Austin

WHEN Jennifer Harrison won a people's choice award at an art competition last year, it left her with a mission.

For while Mrs Harrison was thrilled that her painting of Venice had been the favourite of visitors to the annual Open Art event at Qube in Oswestry, her prize - her very own four-week exhibition at the gallery - was more than a little daunting.

For she had just eight paintings that would be suitable for such an exhibition and just a few months in which to create more.

The retired gift shop owner spent all winter creating 20 more paintings, and with two that she had given to her sister as presents she eventually had 30 to hang in her exhibition.

The exhibition, which closed on Monday this week, won praise from those writing in the visitors' book at the centre on Oswald Road.

Mrs Harrison moved from Whitchurch to Oswestry last year and says painting is a hobby that she loves.

Pieces of art that she painted for sale in the gift shop have been bought to hang in homes across the country and even France and Florida.

"I began painting when I ran the shop with my daughter," she said. "When it was quiet I needed something to do and so I set up an area inside where I could paint. Customers would see what I was doing and asked if they could buy my work."

Her first paintings were mainly of seaside views, created from memories of days out at the coast.



Art exhibition winner Jennifer Harrison shows off some of her artwork

Supplies are the prize in competition

BUDGING artists are being invited to enter a spring-themed competition for the chance to win a stash of art supplies.

Schools across Shropshire are being urged to enter Year 9 and 10 students into the competition being held by Oswestry's Walford and North Shropshire College. Young artists are invited to create a piece of artwork entitled Spring. The artwork submitted must be 2D, up to A3 in size and can use a range of materials and techniques including drawing in any media, painting, printmaking, collage and photography.

The closing date for entries is April 17 and each piece of work entered by a school will need to be individually labelled by teachers so that artwork can be clearly identified. Judging will take place in April and entries will be judged on originality and creativity demonstrated.

The top prize is £50 worth of art supplies for the school and a £25 voucher for the student, with second place earning £25 worth of art supplies for the school and a £15 voucher for the student, and third place taking a £10 voucher for the student. For more details call (01691) 688087.

New club holds its first meeting

A NEW Rotary Club has held its first meeting with 20 members of all ages.

The Rotary of Oswestry Cambrian discussed ways to get involved in projects and initiatives and to sponsor a young person from Oswestry to attend the Rotary Districts Youth Leadership programme. New members aged over 18 are welcome to join the club, which will usually meet The Sweeney Hall Hotel, Morda, on Thursday evenings at 7pm for 7.30pm.

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Show home's stunning style



Matthew Hill, of Floreat Homes, and James Wood, of Saxonby Homes, joint developers on Besford Gardens

HOUSE hunters in Shrewsbury can take design inspiration from a new show home now open at Besford Gardens off Trinity Road, Belle Vue.

Designed by local interior designer Stanza Style, the show home is one of just five four bedroom town houses now remaining at the scheme being jointly developed by Floreat Homes and Saxonby.

Besford's new showhome offers an eclectic mix of urban chic, using rich fabrics and uphol-

stery, combined with bohemian pieces of furniture to create a beautiful and sophisticated new view of living.

The glamorous master bedroom on the second floor, comes complete with a separate dressing room and ensuite and uses luxurious velvet fabric mixed with gold, bronze and hues of blue to create a relaxing yet refined feel.

Downstairs, the living room has a sumptuous feel with contemporary pieces of furniture such as a bronze and glass table and silver trunk used as a TV unit to complement the

earthy, metallic colour scheme throughout. The room opens onto landscaped gardens.

Matthew Hill, head of development at Floreat Homes said: "The new show home looks stunning and I'm sure visitors will be impressed."

Each of the homes at Besford Gardens are exceptionally energy efficient, constructed and finished to an exacting standard. Equipped throughout to a high specification, the kitchens feature integrated Neff appliances with double oven, bespoke and individually de-



The living room opens directly on to landscaped gardens

signed and crafted units with stone work tops. Bathrooms come complete with Vitra designer sanitary ware and Vogel tiling. Oak doors throughout with polished chrome door furniture also feature. James Wood from Saxonby Homes added: "It's a fantastic development both in terms of quality of build and location. We've already had a significant number of visitors and so we're pretty confident the remaining properties won't be around for long."

Currently scheduled for completion in spring, the starting price for Besford Gardens

is £225,000 for a four bedroom town house. Further sales material and price lists are available from Daisy Hallat Miller Evans on 01743 236800 or DaisyHall@millerevans.co.uk. Alternatively visit Floreat's new website www.floreathomes.co.uk or view @FloreatHomes on Twitter for details on Besford Gardens or other developments.

Visit Saxonby's website www.saxonby.com or contact us @Saxonby on Twitter. Saxonby Homes is part of the Saxonby Group, a multi award winning developer.



The wraps are off

The eagerly awaited unveiling of the new show home at Besford Gardens has now taken place - treat yourself to a visit!

- A select development of 11 luxury properties
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Location: Besford Gardens,
Trinity Street, Belle Vue,
Shrewsbury, SY3 7PQ.



Computer generated image. Details may vary.



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Entries are flooding in for awards shortlist

NEW categories in the Rural and Industrial Design and Building Association's second Farm and Agricultural Buildings Awards helped to attract a plethora of entries.

The categories added to the award scheme following the success of the first event in 2013 include diversification, small industrial buildings, working farm buildings above and below 250m², equestrian and unusual buildings, to reflect the diverse range of uses that buildings in the countryside are now put to. These are in addition to an overall first, second and third prize.

Entries for this year's event include new buildings at Oswestry Livestock Auction in Shropshire; the conversion of a 17th Century barn into offices at Boyton Hall, near Chelmsford, Essex; new, green-roofed fire station in Hirwaun in the Rhondda Valley; new clubhouse for Lampert Rugby Club in Ceredigion; agricultural sales and servicing showroom in Swineshead, Lincolnshire and a technology centre at Throws Farm in Stebbing.

Entries in all categories are judged on three criteria, with half of the marks being allocated for aesthetics/design, 30 per cent for functionality/fit for purpose, and 20 per cent for sustainability.

The FAB awards aim to recognise and reward RIDBA corporate members, typically a contractor or fabricator of steel or timber-framed buildings, and their clients, who have taken the time and effort to ensure their new buildings are sympathetic to and even complement the local landscape, while ensuring they are fit for purpose and have been designed with sustainability in mind.

Winners of the 2015 awards will be announced at a gala dinner attended by Countryfile presenter Tom Heap in York on April 24.

The awards are sponsored by Marley Eternit, Wedge Galvanising, Kingspan Insulated Panels, Brett Martin Daylight Systems, Steadman's, United Roofing Products and Joseph Ash Galvanizing.

Workshops help improve productivity

NEW workshops are being set up to help farmers improve soil management in preparation for extreme weather.

In a partnership between Sustainability West Midlands (SWM), the Farming Advice Service (FAS) and the Environment Agency, two workshops will be held in Shropshire in a bid to help farmers.

The workshops will include a live soil analysis by an expert in the field, in order to show how better management can improve farming productivity, save costs and minimise the impacts of extreme weather events.

There will also be a presentation on cross compliance and greening legislation, a discussion around how farmers have been impacted by flooding, storms and droughts and what more can be done to strengthen their resilience.

Alan Carr, who is managing the event, said: "These workshops offer the farming community a unique mix of practical and legislative information, all of which aim to benefit their management practices and improve their productivity."

"The impact that extreme weather can have on the farming community cannot be understated and is becoming increasingly important after recent temperature contrasts and flooding incidents."

"We will be providing advice to farmers on how they can better prepare for such extremes both now and in the future."

"It also represents an excellent opportunity for us to reach out into the heart of the West Midlands' vibrant rural communities."

There will be one morning workshop and one afternoon workshop taking place on March 18 at Welsh Frankton Village Hall near Ellesmere.

To book a place email contact Alan Carr at SWM alan.carr@swm.org.uk or call (0121) 375890. Details at www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk for more information.

Young shepherd lands top-three finish



Expert shepherd Rob Morris

A YOUNG farmer from south Shropshire has taken one of the top prizes at the Young Shepherd of the Year competition.

Rob Morris, who lives near Craven Arms, was named in third place in the contest, one of three students from Reaseheath College in Cheshire to take the top three spots.

Honours

Tom Bird, a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture student from Derbyshire, took the top honours, followed in second place by fellow student Rich Bailey from Aberystwyth, then Mr Morris.

The students proved that they had the all-round skills to make successful commercial shepherds by completing five elements in the competition, which was run by the Central Region of the National Sheep Association (NSA).

These included demonstrating correct techniques in sheep handling and health care, all terrain vehicle handling and a written paper on flock management.

They also carried out an EBLEX lamb selection, proving they understand the requirements of the meat market.

Sponsored by Horner shearing, the Texel Sheep Society and Mole Valley

Farmers, the multi-skilled competition was held at The Winter Fair at Bakewell Agricultural Centre and attracted entries from across several counties.

Reaseheath College's programme leader for agriculture Richard Wheeldon is current chairman for the NSA Central region.

Encourage

He said: "We run this competition annually to encourage and inspire the next generation of shepherds."

"It is also an opportunity for talented students to showcase their skills."

Farmers flock in to attend energy expo

SHROPSHIRE farmers were among the crowds of people who headed for Telford's International Centre for a major conference looking at renewable energy use in agriculture.

Farmers flocked to the Energy Now Expo to hear the latest renewable energy opportunities available, and gain an insight into the latest technologies on offer.

The two-day event has grown as renewable energy issues gain in importance on the country's farms.

Henry Robinson, president of the Country Land Association, opened the event by telling guests that renewable energy development in farming is vital to the government as part of their current energy supply.

"Investment in renewable energy needs clarity and stability," he said.

"Farmers need to take care in what is a minefield of changing information and tariffs."

Demand

Keynote speakers included Professor Samuel Frankhauser, deputy director of the Centre for Climate Change, Economics and Policy, reporting that power sector emissions have dropped by 18 per cent since 2007, as a result of both falling demand, and lower carbon intensities.

Ian Burrow, head of agriculture and renewables, NatWest, joined Hitendra Sonpal of Lombard, to offer guidance on funding options for new projects and refinancing existing schemes.

Following on from them, Nicky Conway, principal sustainability adviser at Forum for the Future, talked about the potential for farm based power in the UK. "There's at least 10GW of untapped resource potential across UK farms," she added.

Close to 1,800 farmers and landowners came through the doors on the first day, with the second day attracting a similarly sized crowd, as NFU president Meurig Raymond kicking off proceedings with an

FARMING LATEST

introductory speech at the morning session. David Jacobmeyer, Energy Now's director, added: "People have been enthusiastic about the quality of the information available at the event, through conference speakers, exhibitors, the RHI zone and the grid connection workshops."

The charity Forage Aid, launched a year ago to support farmers affected by the floods in the south west, travelled to the expo in relays from Somerset to Shropshire using a JCB Fastrac 3230 Xtra and its banner-festooned trailer.

The drive, which stopped at various locations along the way, raised £15,000.

Meanwhile the energy market regulator, Ofgem, has been sharply criticised by MPs for failing to ensure consumers are getting the best value for money.

The Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee said new price caps intended to curb the costs of distributing and transmitting gas and electricity were too generous while performance targets were too low.

Committee chairman Tim Yeo said a warning by Ofgem chief executive Dermot Nolan that it could be eight years before it was clear whether the new system was delivering value for money was too long for consumers to wait.

The so-called "network costs" currently account for around 23 per cent of a dual fuel (gas and electricity) bill. They are passed on to consumers by the energy suppliers who are charged by the network firms for using their transmission and distribution infrastructure.

In 2013, Ofgem introduced a new price control framework RIIO (revenue = incentives + innovation + outputs), which was designed to ensure that costs were competitive and profits were not excessive.

The committee said there was "clear evidence" that the network firms were making higher profits than expected.



Stress could be a reason for decline in bee numbers

STRESSED young bees which are forced to grow up too fast could largely account for disastrous declines in populations of the insects around the world, research suggests.

Bees usually begin foraging at two to three weeks old, but when older workers are killed off by disease, lack of food or other factors, they have to start younger.

Scientists who attached radio tracking devices to thousands of bees found that early-starters completed fewer foraging flights and were more likely to die on their first sortie.

The phenomenon may be a key factor behind colony collapse disorder (CCD), a major threat to bee colonies – and crop pollination – around the world whose origins are still not fully understood.

Lead researcher Dr Clint Perry, from the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Queen Mary, University of London, said: "Young bees leaving the hive early is likely to be an adaptive behaviour to a reduction in the number of older foraging bees. But if the increased death



The bee population worldwide is being affected

rate continues for too long, or the hive isn't big enough to withstand it in the short term, this natural response could upset the societal balance of the colony and have catastrophic consequences.

Our results suggest that tracking when bees begin to forage may be a good indicator of the overall health of a hive.

"Our work sheds light on the reasons behind colony collapse and could help in the search for ways of preventing colony collapse."

The scientists used data from the bee-tracking to model the impact on honey bee colonies in a computer simulation. They found that any stress leading to chronic forager death among older bees led to an increasingly young foraging force.

Having a younger foraging population led to poorer performance, and more rapid deaths of foragers. It dramatically accelerated colony decline in line with observations of CCD seen around the world.

The findings appear in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



High standard family home enjoys an appealing outlook

Ideal village home has been improved

Sunnyside, Station Road, Whittington is a large detached Edwardian family village house in a cul-de-sac position with well appointed accommodation.

It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £269,950. The present owner has improved the property by re-tiling the roof and giving attention to the chimneys and decorating it throughout.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, a reception hall, dining room with a bay window, a sitting room with a bay window, a modern marble fireplace and hearth with a gas coal effect fire, an inner hall, WC, a rear entrance hall, a breakfast kitchen with an integrated double oven, four burner hob, extractor canopy, fridge freezer, dishwasher and vinyl flooring and TV room/

study room. It also has four bedrooms and a sewing room and large family bathroom with a modern suite including a bath and shower cubicle, a concrete driveway and garaging, a neat and well maintained front lawned garden and a good-sized rear garden including fruit trees and a patio.

For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk



Country property has plenty of scope for improvements

Erwalo Uchaf at Dolwyern, Pontfadog, near Llangollen, is a three-bedroom country property providing ample scope for improvement with four acres of pastures. It has an adjoining barn with the potential for conversion. It is on the market with JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £235,000 and there is no chain. The accommodation comprises an entrance porch, living kitchen, sitting room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and rear porch. For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



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Attractive extended cottage used to be two homes

Laburnum Cottage, Gwern y Brenin, Oswestry is an attractive extended cottage in a rural location just three miles from town with very good access. It is for sale through Balfours at £399,950. It has an entrance hall, sitting room, snug, kitchen/dining room, utility room, a conservatory, boot room, cloakroom, master bedroom with a balcony and en-suite, a shower room, family bathroom, three further bedrooms, a paddock, field shelter and garage. The period property was originally two cottages and has been extended to create a wonderful family house. For further information contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

Balfours
Property professionals



Four bedroom property has period features throughout

This is a rare opportunity to purchase a spacious four bedroom semi-detached property. Greystones Court on Shrewsbury Road is situated on the fringe of the popular market town of Oswestry. The property has period features throughout and offers flexible living accommodation including large entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, boiler room, cellar, four large bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally the property is approached over a gravelled driveway leading to private gardens, patio and ample off road parking. Offers in the region of £295,000. Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 652367.

**Bowen Son
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Ideal first time buy opportunity available in village

An ideal first time buy or investment opportunity, 30 Hazel Grove in Oswestry is on the market with Town & Country for £119,500. The property is a three bedroom family home with garage and attractive gardens. Accommodation comprises porch, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally there is an enclosed rear garden with gated access leading to off road parking and a garage. The property benefits from gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 for more details.

**TOWN &
COUNTRY**
Tel: 01691 679631



Property has stunning views over adjoining countryside

A rural located detached cottage, Brwynog at Llanfihangel is on the market with Morris Marshall and Poole for £239,500. The property has stunning extensive views over the adjoining countryside. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room, study, living room, kitchen, a bathroom and three bedrooms. Outside pathways and steps give access to the enclosed gardens which comprise lawns, orchard, paved and grass seating areas, attached 'boiler' house with oil-fired boiler, detached stone and timber built sheds. For more details contact Morris Marshall and Poole on 01691 679595.

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NEW




Gatacre Road
Oswestry

£149,995

- A generous and well appointed 3 Bedroom Terraced House
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Cloakroom
- 3 good size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom together with Attic Room
- Enclosed rear garden
- Close to Gatacre recreational fields and Oswestry Hill Fort beyond.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating E

NEW




Queens Road
Oswestry

£325,000

- A superbly appointed 6 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- The property has been completed to a high standard throughout
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Sitting Room
- Master Suite comprising En-Suite Bathroom and Walk-In Wardrobe
- Four further bedrooms
- Front & rear gardens, double garage with electric door & off-road parking
- Gas central heating and double glazing throughout. EPC Rating C




Jennings Road
Oswestry

£248,495

- A superbly appointed Double Fronted Edwardian Family Home
- Ent Hall, Living Rm, Study, Dining Rm, Large Kitchen, Utility/WC
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Large enclosed rear garden bordered by a natural stream
- Gas central heating and partial secondary glazing
- EPC Rating D




Holbache Gardens
Oswestry

£340,000

- A substantial detached 3 storey, 5 bedroom modern property
- Situated close to the heart of Oswestry town centre
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility
- Master Bedroom (En-Suite), 4 further BedRooms and 2 further Bathrooms
- Externally the property benefits from an enclosed rear garden
- Good size drive bounded by brick walls and ornate railings
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C




Wilf Owain Avenue
Oswestry

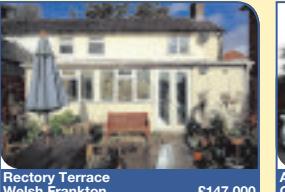
£184,995

- A generous 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Originally constructed as a 4 bed and could easily be converted back
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room and Separate WC.
- Well maintained gardens with driveway & garage
- UPVC double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Wingate Way
Park Hall

£35,000

- A new build 3 bedroom semi-detached property available on a Help to Buy Shared Ownership basis with shares ranging from 25 - 75%.
- Ent Hall, WC, Fully fitted Kitchen, Lounge/ Dining rm
- 3 Bedrm & Bathrm. Large garden & off road parking. EPC 'B'
- Gas C/H & photo voltaic solar panel system.




Rector's Terrace
Welsh Frankton

£147,000

- A 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Rm, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Oil C/H, D/G. EPC Rating E

Aston Way
Oswestry

£144,995

- An excellent 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge
- Dining Rm, Kitchen, 3 BedRooms & Bathroom
- Private rear garden with timber garden sheds & summerhouse
- Large driveway provides ample off-road parking.
- D/G, Gas C/H & cavity wall insulation. EPC 'D'

Property Auction

26 March

2.00pm

@ the Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton Oswestry SY11 3EN

**LOT 1
AUCTION**

Caergwri **WREXHAM**
Guide Price £80,000-£100,000

- Detached bungalow
- Rural Location
- Certificate of Lawful Development for Extension.
- Grounds approx 0.6 of an acre
- Outlooks over farmland
- Contact Wrexham Office

**LOT 2
AUCTION**

Ruabon **WREXHAM**
Guide Price

- Former residential care home
- Large period house
- Occupying screened gardens and grounds
- Rural outlook to rear set in over 1 ac
- Substantial extension and annexe to the rear
- Double-garage block
- Main parking and turning area
- In Agent's opinion- excellent potential for a number of uses (subject to consent)
- Energy Rating G
- Contact Llangollen Office

**LOT 3
AUCTION**

WREXHAM
Over £60,000

- 3 Bedroom Ground Floor Leasehold Apartment
- Maintained to a High Standard
- Entrance Hall, Lounge
- Inner Hallway, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Rear Garden with Views
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Oswestry Office

**LOT 4
AUCTION**

Trevor **LLANGOLLEN**
Guide Price Over £100,000

- DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- Former garage site
- Extends to approx 0.57 acres (0.23 hectares)
- Outline planning permission for residential development
- Situated in the village of Trevor
- Fringe of the picturesque Dee Valley
- Close to the World Heritage Site of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.
- Contact Llangollen Office

**LOT 5
AUCTION**

Overton **WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £70,000

- A charming end-mews cottage with beamed ceilings
- Grade II Listed
- Central position within Overton-on-Dee
- Two bedroom
- Modern kitchen and bathroom fitting
- Gas fired central heating from a modern combination boiler
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Wrexham Office

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Contact your local Bowen Son and Watson office today and we will help you find the property that's right for you



Family home in popular village has four bedrooms

Situated in the popular village of Llanfechain, 4 Maes Mechain is an extended semi-detached house ideal for family living. On the market with Morris Marshall & Poole for £179,995, the house has oil fired central heating and double glazing. Accommodation downstairs includes an entrance hall, living room, sitting room, kitchen/diner, rear hall and utility. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside there is a gated approach off the fore leading to the driveway running alongside the house and affording on-site parking. For more details contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Well built home occupies a large garden plot

A well built, traditional family house, The Crest on Penygarreg Lane, Pant, near Oswestry occupies a large garden plot with open views of the surrounding countryside. The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co for £275,000. Accommodation includes a reception hall, living room, dining room and breakfast kitchen. There is a rear entrance porch and a utility/cloakroom. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also has the benefit of a detached garage. For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or 680212.



Rare opportunity to buy Georgian-style farm house

A stone drive leading to an impressive portico signals a rare opportunity to purchase this impressively appointed six bedroom Georgian-style farmhouse Gwernhafod at Gwern-Y-Brenin, Oswestry. It has an attached two bedroom annexe and more than 31 acres of pasture land, along with a collection of Dutch barns and separate large barn with planning permission. It is on the market with Woodhead Estates for offers in the region of £1,200,000. Properties of the quality and appeal of Gwernhafod are rarely available and early viewing is recommended. Contact Harriet Fallon on 01691 680044.



Substantial family house also has a very large garden

This substantial detached family home 10 Inglis Road, Park Hall, Oswestry offers five bedrooms and a large garden in a sought after residential area. It offers a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and a further four bedrooms, three reception rooms, conservatory and luxury kitchen. It has a reception hall, dining room, sitting room/office, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, first floor landing, master bedroom & ensuite, four further bedrooms, family bathroom, double garage, large gardens and communal paddock. It is for sale chain free and the price is £295,000. Contact Halls on 01691 670320.



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Impressive five bed contemporary home in the country

A bespoke design and spacious five bedroom home near Welshpool offers a unique opportunity to buy a contemporary home with superb outlooks. Ochor y Bryn, Hope, Leighton, was built in 2006 boasting sustainable and lifestyle features including underfloor heating. Agent, Clemmie Radcliffe of Balfours Property Professionals, says: "This is a beautiful and well thought out property." The property is two miles from Welshpool in unspoilt countryside. Ochor y Bryn is offered to the market with a guide of £750,000 for more information call Clemmie Radcliffe on 01743 353511.

Balfours
Selling on behalf of



Delightful property has many of its original features

Dolerfyl at Llanerfyl is a delightful detached period village residence. On the market with Halls the property is priced at £199,950. The property has been sensitively and tastefully restored retaining many of its original features. On the ground floor there are three reception rooms. The kitchen/breakfast room is exceptionally well fitted. There is also a good sized utility room and ground floor WC and cloakroom. On the first floor is a large landing, four comfortable bedrooms, a family bathroom and a separate shower room. For more details contact Halls on 01938 710004.

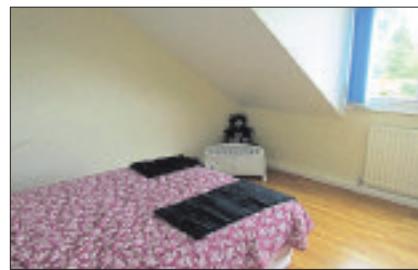
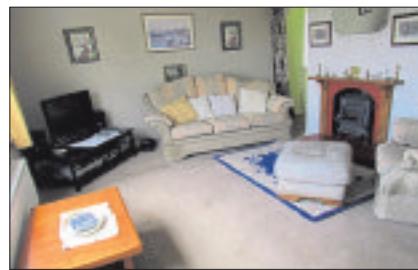
Halls



Property has beautifully arranged front and rear gardens

A delightful three-bedroom bungalow, Glynderyn, is situated on the extremely popular Milford Road, Newtown. It is on the market with McCartneys with an asking price of £275,000. The property boasts beautifully arranged front and rear gardens and enjoys views right out across the countryside despite only being a short distance from all of the local amenities Newtown offers. Accommodation comprises of a living room, dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and pantry. For more details contact McCartneys on 01686 623123.

McCartneys
Selling on behalf of



Smart dormer property in a quiet location

On the market with JJ Dell & Co, Elton, in Nant Lane, on the edge of Morda, is a well appointed detached dormer bungalow in a quiet village position. It has an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, four double bedrooms, a bathroom, cloakroom, garage, car parking and gardens. The kitchen has an integrated oven, hob and vinyl flooring. The lounge has a fireplace with a solid fuel burner, and there is a study. There are four bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite of wash hand basin, bath with an electric shower over, WC, heated towel rail and vinyl flooring. The property is priced at £189,950. Contact 01691 653437.

J.J. DELL & CO.
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Treat your lovely mum to something special

Advertising Feature

WE all know our mothers are special and Mother's Day is a fantastic chance to show them how much we care. Whether it is a lovely bunch of flowers, a nice day out or a lovely meal at many of the great venues around the Oswestry and Welshpool area, why not make Mother's Day this year extra special?

Many of the area's hotels and restaurants are staging special events and treats this year to make Mother's Day an occasion to remember.

The Wynnstay Hotel & Spa in Oswestry offers everything you could want to make Mother's Day extra special. Give mum a well earned rest so she can enjoy precious time with loved ones whilst enjoying a delicious three course lunch served in The Paddock Suite with live entertainment for only £20 and £10.50 for children.

The Wynnstay Hotel & Spa's Beauty Suite has created a Mother's Day Spa Experience for two for only £30 per person. You and your mother will enjoy full use of the spa facilities, a relaxing Back, Neck & Shoulder Massage, File & Polish on hands or toes followed by traditional afternoon tea. The Mother's Day Spa Package is available during March, to book call The Beauty Suite on 01691 650083.

All the packages make the perfect gift for someone special, vouchers are available from The Wynnstay Hotel and The Beauty Suite.

The full range of treatments, packages and special offers can be found at www.wynnstayhotel.com



Mothers's Day is a great excuse for a special treat

SUNDAY
15TH MARCH

MOTHER'S DAY

AT THE WYNNSTAY HOTEL & SPA

MENU

STARTERS

Soup of the day with olive oil and croutons (V)
Ham hock terrine, quails eggs, peas, asparagus and a mustard dressing
Prawn and crayfish cocktail with brown bread and butter
A tian of Mediterranean vegetables soft cheese with chives, onion marmalade and balsamic

MAIN COURSES

Roasted sirloin of beef carved from our trolley with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and a red wine and thyme jus
Roast breast of turkey, sage and onion stuffing, chipolata wrapped in bacon and cranberry puree
Roast leg of spring lamb with a redcurrant and rosemary jus
Fillet of Sea bass with celeriac puree, spring vegetables and a tomato and chervil butter sauce (G)
Open roasted wild mushroom and spinach vegetable lasagne with garlic infused ciabatta (V)

DESSERTS

Rhubarb and ginger fool (V)
Bakewell tart with vanilla custard
Lemon posset with candied lemon and shortbread fingers
Steamed syrup pudding with vanilla custard
Freshly brewed coffee and chocolates

£20 PER PERSON

£10.50 CHILDREN 12YRS AND UNDER

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Write your **FREE** lineage message here. One word per box

Mother's Surname First Name

Senders Name Senders Number

Send to: Mother's Day Greetings, Classifieds, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES or call into your local Shropshire Star office. Deadline for messages is 11am, Friday, March 13, 2015.

Shropshire
STAR


Casualty

9.15pm
Dixie convinces former drug addict Dave not to give up on himself, or his relationship with his father and son. Connie finds a friend in Alfred, a patient suffering from motor neurone disease who used to be a surgeon, and discovers he is finding life unbearable. Zoe and Max continue their secret fling.


Flog It!

7pm
Experts Philip Serrell and Michael Baggott visit Derby, where items up for valuation include a German painting with a moving history, a pair of Disney figurines and a supposed 18-carat diamond ring. Plus, Paul Martin takes part in a crash course on Bushcraft survival.


Take Me Out

8.25pm
Soldier Darian from Hartlepool, para-athlete Tony from Cardiff, animal-rights campaigner Ben from London and hair colour technician Aaron from Hastings all vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date, as host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress.


Homes by the Sea

7pm
Charlie Luxton travels to Devon to investigate why it has become the most sought-after place in Britain to have a seaside property. He begins at a clifftop home near Brixham, before visiting a fisherman's cottage in Lympstone. He then explores a house inspired by the modernist design of the 1960s in Kingswear.


NCIS

7.10pm
The driver of a Ferrari is gunned down by a motorcyclist and the victim is identified as petty officer Colin Boxer, who was holding down a second job as a valet parker and had borrowed the sports car. The owner of the vehicle turns out to be Vijay Chaya, the billionaire head of a large corporation.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.** A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features.

10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** Host James Martin is joined by guest chefs Niklas Ekstedt and Francesca Mazzei, as well as jazz singer Gregory Porter, who faces either food heaven or food hell.

11.30 **Mary Berry Cooks.** The food writer gives step-by-step instructions for recipes to impress guests at dinner parties, including canapes, a salmon and asparagus starter and a main course of guinea fowl. (R)

12.00 **BBC News; Weather.**

12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's football, which includes the League Cup final between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley Stadium.

12.50 **Saturday Sportsday.** A look ahead at the day's events.

1.00 **Bargain Hunt.** Catherine Souton and Paul Laidlaw head to Edinburgh to help teams of policemen and community wardens find potentially profitable items to take to auction. (R)

2.00 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Scotland v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). The third weekend of fixtures gets under way at Murrayfield, where the hosts will expect to defeat the tournament underdogs.

4.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** France v Wales (Kick-off 5.00pm). All the action from the Stade de France in Paris, as the visitors look to defeat Les Bleus for the fourth successive occasion.

6.55 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

7.15 **The Voice UK.** The start of the battle rounds, in which the acts perform in head-to-head sing-offs, leaving the coaches to decide who to take through to the knockouts.

9.15 **Casualty.** Dixie convinces a former drug addict not to give up on himself, or his relationships with his family. Connie finds a friend in a patient, while Max declares his love for Zoe.

10.05 **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin presents the Lotto and Thunderball draws, joined by Ella Henderson, who performs her new single.

10.15 **BBC News; Weather.**

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Sunderland at Old Trafford and West Ham United v Crystal Palace at Upton Park; **National Lottery Update.**

11.55 **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough.

1.15 **FILM: Halloween: Resurrection (2002).** Teenagers spend a night in Michael Myers' childhood home and broadcast it live on the internet, unaware he is about to show up. Horror sequel, starring Brad Loree and Busta Rhymes.

2.40 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**

2.45 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes.

6.15 **FILM: School for Scoundrels (1960).** Comedy, starring Ian Carmichael.

7.50 **FILM: Whisky Galore! (1949).** Ealing comedy, starring Basil Radford.

9.10 **Six Nations Rewind.** John Inverdale presents archive rugby union highlights.

10.10 **The Fred Dibnah Story.** Fred gets his first taste of fame. (R)

10.40 **The Fred Dibnah Story.** Fred and his wife go on separate holidays. (R)

11.10 **The Nature of Britain.** Alan Titchmarsh explores the country's natural wildlife. (R)

12.00 **A Taste of Britain.** Janet Street-Porter and Brian Turner visit Essex.

12.30 **Albert Finney: Talking Pictures.** A retrospective look at TV appearances by actor Albert Finney.

1.00 **FILM: The Victors (1963).** Second World War drama, starring George Peppard.

3.30 **Africa's Fishing Leopards: Natural World.** A leopard and its cubs try to survive in the wilds of Botswana. (R)

4.30 **Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.

5.30 **The Wonder of Animals.** Examining how ants have colonised the planet. (R)

6.00 **The Great British Sewing Bee.** The seven remaining contestants are tested on their ability to add shape and structure to clothing, having to make a corset, transform a 1980s suit and create a kilt from scratch. (R)

7.00 **Flog It!** Paul Martin and the team visit Derby, where items up for valuation include a German painting with a moving history, a pair of Disney figurines and a supposed 18-carat diamond ring. (R)

7.45 **How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson.** The American science author explores the impact on the modern world of technological innovations in the sphere of cooling and refrigeration.

8.45 **Dad's Army.** Godfrey learns his cottage is scheduled for demolition to make way for a new airstrip. Comedy, starring Arnold Ridley. (R)

9.15 **Reginald D Hunter's Songs of the South.** The comedian explores the musical heritage of Alabama and Georgia, examining Muscle Shoals' role in the development of soul and visiting the home town of the B52s and REM.

10.15 **The Rise of James Brown: Mr Dynamite.** Documentary charting the singer's journey from impoverished beginnings to becoming one of the biggest names in music, and revealing his pivotal role in the civil rights movement.

11.55 **FILM: Brooklyn's Finest (2009).** Three Brooklyn police officers face contrasting personal dilemmas as their careers converge at a single moment. Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere, Don Cheadle and Ethan Hawke.

2.00 **FILM: Beauty & the Briefcase (2010).** Romantic comedy, with Hilary Duff and Chris Carmack.

3.20 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **ITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Canimals **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.

7.35 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)

7.50 **Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** Fun for children.

8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster.

8.50 **Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash.** Animation based on the superhero character.

9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

11.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

12.30 **ITV News and Weather.** Weather.

12.35 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

1.35 **Tipping Point.** Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)

2.35 **The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)

3.35 **Doc Martin.** The new midwife in the village proves unpopular with Martin. (R)

4.35 **Big Star's Little Star.** With Jake Wood, Austin Healey and Sunetra Sarker. (R)

5.35 **ITV News Central.** Weather.

5.45 **ITV News and Weather.**

6.00 **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Holidays.** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 vacation-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. (R)

7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The duo take control of Richard Madeley in I'm a Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear!, and the Supercomputer is in Edinburgh, where locals use hidden talents to win flights to New York.

8.25 **Take Me Out.** Soldier Darian, para-athlete Tony, animal-rights campaigner Ben and hair stylist Aaron vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on securing a date. Paddy McGuinness hosts.

9.40 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by Hollywood actress Sigourney Weaver, Doc Martin star Martin Clunes, Arsenal legend Thierry Henry, controversial artist Tracey Emin and rapper Kanye West.

10.35 **ITV News and Weather.** Weather.

10.50 **Boxing: Frampton Live.** Carl Frampton v Chris Avalos. Mark Pougatch is joined by David Haye to present coverage of the bout for the IBF World Super Bantamweight title, from the Odyssey Arena in Belfast.

12.30 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.00 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside. (R)

3.40 **ITV Nightscreen.**

Channel 4

6.00 **Trans World Sport.** Including an interview with former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson.

7.00 **FIM Superbike World Championship.**

7.25 **The Grid.** Including interviews with Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso.

7.55 **The Morning Line.** Gina Harding and guests preview this afternoon's racing at Doncaster and Newbury.

9.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert moves out. (R)

9.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Andy has an article published. (R)

10.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert and Amy split up. (R)

10.30 **Frasier.** Martin's prized chair is thrown out. (R)

11.00 **Frasier.** The shrink flirts with a much younger woman. (R)

11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** A wealthy benefactor makes an indecent proposal to Leonard. (R)

12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard is torn between Bernadette and his mother. (R)

12.25 **Child Genius.** The final six compete in a debating contest. Last in the series. (R)

1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Doncaster and Newbury.

4.15 **Come Dine with Me.** Harinder Khela hosts the first dinner party in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. (R)

4.45 **Come Dine with Me.** Alison Tinsley hosts the second dinner party in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. (R)

5.15 **Come Dine with Me.** Sarah Wells hosts the third party in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. (R)

5.45 **Come Dine with Me.** Andrew Lloyd hosts the final evening in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. (R)

6.15 **The Simpsons.** Homer wins \$1million on the lottery, but keeps it a secret from his family. With the guest voice of Coldplay's Chris Martin. (R)

6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Homes by the Sea.** Charlie Luxton explores the south Devon coast to find out why it has become the most sought-after place in Britain to have a seaside property, and visits various homes in the area.

8.00 **The World's Weirdest Weather.** New series. Popcorn-like snow in South Carolina, a dangerous concoction of volcanic ash, rocks, debris and water, a giant tornado born from a firestorm, and a strange bank of fog. Previously seen on More4.

9.00 **FILM: Cuban Fury (2014).** Premiere. An overweight former salsa dancer tries to regain his confidence and return to the dance floor to sweep his boss off her feet. Comedy, with Nick Frost and Chris O'Dowd.

10.55 **FILM: Runaway Jury (2003).** A woman sues the company that made the gun used to kill her husband, but the manufacturer tries to meddle with the jury. Courtroom thriller, with John Cusack and Gene Hackman.

1.25 **The Last Leg.** (R)

2.20 **Hollyoaks.** (R)

4.30 **The Supervet.** (R)

5.25 **Deal or No Deal.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Milkshake! Monkey **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.35** Pip Ahoy! **6.45** The Mr Men Show **7.00** Chloe's Closet **7.10** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures **7.15** Olly the Little White Van **7.20** Make Way for Noddy **7.30** Milkshake! Bop Box **7.35** Paw Patrol **7.50** Little Princess **8.05** Wanda and the Alien **8.20** Zack and Quack **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.50** Jelly Jamm **9.05** LazyTown **9.35** Dora and Friends

10.00 **SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. Squidward is arrested.

10.35 **Ice Road Truckers.** Dave is in trouble with his bosses after making a basic error. (R)

11.30 **Ice Road Truckers.** Tim, Hugh and Alex battle for the load-count title. (R)

12.30 **Ice Road Truckers.** Dave's employers make a decision about his future. (R)

1.25 **Ice Road Truckers.** Lisa has a chance to take the season's load-count title. (R)

2.25 **FILM: Rio Bravo (1959).** Western, with John Wayne and Dean Martin.

5.10 **5 News Weekend.**

5.15 **FILM: Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974).** Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan.

7.10 **NCIS.** The team suspects a case of mistaken identity when a petty officer is gunned down by a motorcyclist while driving a millionaire's sports car. (R)

8.05 **NCIS.** Part one of two. A navy lieutenant dies after a fight, but the sole witness has post-traumatic stress disorder from his military experiences and his testimony cannot be relied upon. (R)

9.00 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Evidence at a crime scene leads the team to fear the Gig Harbour serial killer has resurfaced, even though the man convicted of the murders is currently residing on death row.

10.00 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The detectives call on the help of Dr Warner when the death of a baby leads Stabler and Benson to crack down on a doctor whose dubious practices have cost several lives. (R)

10.55 **Law & Order.** A politician is embroiled in a triple murder, but persuading him to reveal the truth is only the first step toward unmasking the killer. Crime drama, starring Sam Waterston. Previously seen on 5USA.

11.50 **True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.** The case of Newfoundland man Gregory Parsons, who was wrongly convicted of murdering his mother, but was eventually cleared after DNA evidence proved he was not the culprit. (R)

12.15 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.

3.10 **10,000 BC.** JP threatens to leave when a meeting is called to discuss his laziness. (R)

4.00 **House Doctor.** (R)

4.25 **Make It Big.** (R)

4.50 **Make It Big.** (R)

5.15 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

5.20 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

5.30 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

5.40 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)


Call the Midwife
8pm

A water shortage means that the maternity home is busier than ever and two old schoolmates are reunited. Elsewhere, Barbara makes a revolutionary suggestion to help Sister Mary Cynthia treat the bedsores of her patient Tommy Mills, whose wife Gert may be more in need of care than he is.


Top Gear
8pm

In this week's programme, Richard Hammond is dropped into the remote, frozen wastes of Canada to test a watch with a built-in emergency beacon. The distress signal is sent directly to Jeremy Clarkson and James May, who set off on an epic adventure to find their colleague.


Mr Selfridge
9pm

Following Violette's arrest, Harry is struggling to keep her in check, while Nancy and Gus worry about how best to handle Mr Selfridge. Gordon takes up his post as deputy manager, but upsets the new head of display when he unwittingly commissions a racy window montage.


Four Rooms
7pm

Gordon Watson, Celia Sawyer, Alex Proud and David Sonnenthal are in hot pursuit of a treasure gifted by Agatha Christie, an Elvis Presley photo album, a bronze skeleton and an artwork made in space, as they meet members of the public putting their prized possessions up for sale. Anita Rani presents.


The Hotel Inspector
11.20am

Alex Polizzi visits Gwent's West Usk lighthouse, which has fallen into disrepair and become a workshop for its owners' paranormal experiments. With the help of wedding planner Josephine Carter, Alex tries to convince the owners to restore the business to its former glory.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.

7.35 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Sunderland at Old Trafford and West Ham United v Crystal Palace at Upton Park. (R)

9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**

10.00 **The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell visits Michaela Community College, Cardiff, to present moral and religious discussions on topical issues.

11.00 **Sunday Politics.**

12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents football discussion with the Match of the Day team, focusing on the headlines from yesterday's matches and the latest from Liverpool v Manchester City.

1.00 **BBC News; Weather.**

1.15 **Bargain Hunt.** From Ardingly, West Sussex. (R)

2.00 **My Chinese New Year.** Former Holby City star Jing Lusi explores her cultural heritage.

2.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Ireland v England (Kick-off 3.00pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage from the Aviva Stadium, where the third round of fixtures reaches a conclusion with this crucial clash.

5.00 **Songs of Praise.** With guest Hal Cruttenden.

5.35 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** The amateur artists create self-portraits from their reflections, attempt anatomically accurate sketches of strangers, and paint pictures of Rudolph Walker and Pam St Clement.

7.00 **Countryfile.** The team visits Pembrokeshire to mark St David's Day, with Matt Baker foraging for food and Ellie Harrison heading out to sea in the hope of catching a glimpse of a porpoise; **Weather for the Week Ahead.**

8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Two old schoolmates have a less than happy reunion at the maternity home, while Barbara makes a revolutionary suggestion to help Mary Cynthia treat the bedsores of her patient.

9.00 **The Casual Vacancy.** Tensions rise in Pagford as the election approaches and each side steps up its campaign, while news of a tragedy leaves the whole community reeling. Last in the series.

10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Liverpool v Manchester City and Arsenal v Everton. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League matches at Anfield and the Emirates Stadium.

11.35 **The League Cup Show.** Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur. Manish Bhasin presents action from the final at Wembley Stadium, as the London rivals contested the first major domestic silverware of 2015.

12.15 **The Apprentice USA.** The teams must produce a hair show promoting various styling products, including straighteners.

1.40 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**

1.45 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 **This Is BBC2.**

6.15 **Great British Garden Revival.** Irises and ornamental grasses. (R)

7.15 **Glorious Gardens from Above.** (R)

8.00 **Countryfile.** The team explores how erosion has shaped the landscape in Suffolk. (R)

9.00 **The Football League Show.** Highlights of the latest games in the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)

10.20 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.

11.50 **The Great Comic Relief Bake Off.** Michael Sheen, David Mitchell, Jameela Jamil and Sarah Brown compete. (R)

12.50 **A Taste of Britain.** The cuisine and culture of Gloucestershire. (R)

1.20 **A Taste of Britain.** Janet Street-Porter and Brian Turner visit north Essex. (R)

1.50 **Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.** Frank has problems with a hi-tech toilet. (R)

2.15 **Three Up, Two Down.** Daphne attempts to spice up her social life. (R)

2.45 **Hi-De-Hi!** Joe Maplin's plans for expansion cause chaos. (R)

3.15 **Flog It!** From Basingstoke, Hampshire. (R)

4.00 **Speed Dreams: The Fastest Place on Earth.** Part two of two. The men test their custom-built machines on the Bonneville Salt Flats. (R)

5.00 **FILM: The Tuxedo (2002).** A bumbling chauffeur dons a secret agent's hi-tech suit and sets out with a rookie spy to thwart a plot to take over the world. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan.

6.30 **Pompidou.** New series. Comedy about a penniless aristocrat who lives with his butler and dog in a caravan parked in front of his crumbling estate. With Matt Lucas and Alex Macqueen.

7.00 **The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway.** Engineer Linda Miller battles to rebuild a Victorian tunnel under the Royal Docks in the East End as part of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London. (R)

8.00 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson and James May set off on an epic adventure to rescue Richard Hammond from a remote area of Canada. Gillian Anderson is the Star in the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 **Let's Play Darts for Comic Relief.** New series. Gabby Logan hosts a contest in which big names from the world of darts join forces with celebrities in a knockout tournament held at the Lakeside, Frimley Green. Continues daily through the week.

9.50 **FILM: Cosmopolis (2012).** Premiere. A billionaire driving across Manhattan has a series of strange encounters as he faces financial ruin. David Cronenberg's drama, with Robert Pattinson.

11.30 **FILM: Genghis Khan (1965).** The story of the Mongol leader and uniter of nomadic hordes, who rose to become one of history's greatest conquerors. Historical adventure, starring Omar Sharif and James Mason.

1.30 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)

2.30 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)

3.30 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **ITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Canimals **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.

7.35 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)

7.50 **Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man.** Superhero adventures.

8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster.

8.50 **Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories.** Chilling tales for younger viewers. (R)

9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

11.30 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

12.35 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**

12.45 **Neil Diamond: One Night Only.** The legendary crooner performs at the London Palladium. (R)

1.55 **Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)

2.40 **Tipping Point.** Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)

3.40 **FILM: A View to a Kill (1985).** James Bond battles a megalomaniac computer tycoon plotting to cause a devastating earthquake in California's Silicon Valley. Spy adventure, with Roger Moore and Christopher Walken.

6.05 **ITV News Central; Weather.**

6.15 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.**

6.30 **Emmerdale** actor Dominic Brunt (Paddy), dancer Wayne Sleep, Royle Family star Ricky Tomlinson and Good Morning Britain's Charlotte Hawkins play for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts.

7.30 **Off Their Rockers.** New series. Hidden-camera comedy. Seb tries his hand at selling cheap suits, Sonia asks for help with a tricky crossword clue, and Mo wreaks havoc on his mobility scooter.

8.00 **All Star Family Fortunes.** Celebrity Big Brother winner Katie Price and actor Charlie Lawson, best known as Coronation Street's Jim McDonald, play to win money for charity with the help of their families.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** Harry struggles to keep Violette in check, Gordon unwittingly commissions a racy window display, Victor brokers a shady deal and George helps Kitty confront her attackers.

10.00 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**

10.15 **Cricket World Cup Highlights.** England v Sri Lanka. Georgie Bingham presents action from the Pool A match at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington, New Zealand.

11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, including Northampton Saints v Harlequins, Wasps v Gloucester and Leicester Tigers v Sale Sharks.

12.15 **The Store.** Home shopping.

2.30 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R)

3.15 **ITV Nightscreen.**

5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

6.20 **How I Met Your Mother.** Ted and Marshall go on a road trip to Chicago.

6.45 **How I Met Your Mother.** Barney mistakenly suspects Marshall and Lily are heading for divorce.

7.10 **How I Met Your Mother.** Barney reverts to his old ways after breaking up with Robin.

7.35 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R)

8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert's new apartment makes Ray jealous. (R)

8.30 **Frasier.** The Cranes go on a road trip. (R)

9.00 **Frasier.** Niles and Frasier decide to co-write a book. (R)

9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With guests Stephen Tompkinson and Rae Morris.

12.30 **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year.** George Clarke presides over the 2014 Shed of the Year competition. (R)

1.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon and Penny bond as they miss Leonard. (R)

2.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Sheldon go through an adjustment period. (R)

2.30 **FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939).** Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland.

4.30 **Location, Location, Location.** Helping two couples find homes in Liverpool. (R)

5.35 **Channel 4 News.**

6.05 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Laura Hamilton helps a mother and son find a holiday home for the whole family in the Murcia region on Spain's Mediterranean coast, with a cash budget of £70,000.

7.00 **Four Rooms.** The dealers appraise an item gifted by Agatha Christie, an Elvis Presley photo album, a biblical ancient relic, a bronze skeleton and an artwork made in space. Anita Rani presents.

8.00 **The Auction House.** Roger sets art valuer Nick a challenging target – to sell at least half his pictures – and a regular customer goes in search of a buffalo skull for her kitchen. Last in the series.

9.00 **Indian Summers.** As the Sipi Fair gets under way, the Indian community is allowed onto the grounds of the British Club. Ralph conspires to get Aafra onside by granting him a sought-after promotion.

10.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the famous quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests Andrew Flintoff and Rhod Gilbert. (R)

11.05 **FILM: Twilight (2008).** Teenager Bella moves to a small town to live with her father and embarks on a passionate romance with a vampire. Fantasy love story, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

1.25 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Mike & Nellie's Steakhouse in Oakhurst, New Jersey. (R)

2.15 **The Million Pound Drop.** (R)

3.10 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

3.35 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

4.00 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

4.30 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

4.55 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

5.25 **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)

5.30 **Face the Clock.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Milkshake! Monkey **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.35** Pi Ahoy! **6.45** The Mr Men Show **7.00** Chloe's Closet **7.10** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures **7.15** Olly the Little White Van **7.20** Make Way for Noddy **7.35** Paw Patrol **7.45** Little Princess **8.00** Wanda and the Alien **8.10** Toby's Travelling Circus **8.20** Zack and Quack **8.30** Milkshake! Bop Box **8.35** Bert and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.50** Jelly Jamm **9.05** LazyTown **9.35** Dora and Friends SpongeBob SquarePants. Double bill. Pearl has a slumber party.

10.00 **SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. Pearl has a slumber party.

10.35 **Chinese Food in Minutes.** Oriental cooking. (R)

10.50 **The Dog Rescuers.** The work of RSPCA officers. (R)

11.20 **The Hotel Inspector.** A small B&B lighthouse in Gwent. (R)

12.15 **The Hotel Inspector.** Reversing the fortunes of the Crown Inn in Lewes, East Sussex. (R)

1.15 **FILM: Thunderbirds (2004).** Sci-fi adventure, starring Bill Paxton.

3.00 **FILM: Arthur and the Invisibles (2006).** Part-animated fantasy adventure, starring Freddie Highmore.

4.45 **FILM: Three Men and a Little Lady (1990).** Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck.

6.45 **5 News Weekend.**

6.50 **FILM: Ghost Rider (2007).** A curse turns a motorcycle stuntman into a demonic skeletal biker who must take evil souls to Hell. Fantasy thriller based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes. Edited for daytime broadcast.

9.00 **FILM: Total Recall (2012).** Premiere. A man living in a bleak future becomes a fugitive when he discovers he is a spy with his memory erased. Sci-fi thriller remake, with Colin Farrell and Kate Beckinsale.

11.20 **FILM: Twelve Monkeys (1995).** A man goes back in time to investigate a disaster, but begins to think he is mad and has only imagined his life in the future. Sci-fi thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt.

1.55 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.10 **10,000 BC.** Phil and Mike set snares as they continue their hunting mission, while Mel takes Jodie and Josie foraging for sloes and JP shows an unexpected skill for extracting burdock root. (R)

4.00 **House Doctor.** A country cottage in Northamptonshire. (R)

4.25 **Make It Big.** Reality show following 12 young entrepreneurs. (R)

4.50 **Make It Big.** Reality show following 12 young entrepreneurs. (R)

5.15 **Angels of Jarm.** The children make cards. (R)

5.20 **Angels of Jarm.** Faith tries to pull a big box. (R)

5.30 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

5.40 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

My enjoyable morning feast of cod and ships

IT may not be immediately apparent, but for a land-locked county such as ours, we do nonetheless harbour a surprising number of marine species.

Sadly most of them are vacuum-packed or frozen and whilst that fact alone may be enough for a cuisine-orientated life, it is no substitute for a naturalist looking to study live animals, preferably without a coating of batter.

Topping the unenviable list of most-eaten sea creature is probably the cod. Nations have been built on this fish.

The Vikings were trading in dried cod long before Jesus Christ was supposedly born and the market in Europe has lasted more than 1,000 years.

The Basques of Northern Spain played a big role in cod fishing and the trade into Europe and found and fished the Canadian banks before a certain Christopher Columbus claimed to discover the North American continent.

Indeed, most of New England was founded on cod and the major cities were there solely to be as close to the fishing grounds as possible.

Back in the UK there were the 1950s – 70s Cod Wars between the UK and Iceland.

More recently still, the fish has been at the forefront of environmental and economic politics due to decreasing stocks and the damage to the fishing industry.

I always think of 'meeting' famous animals as far superior to meeting famous people and so I was very excited to meet this

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



particular celebrity when the time came last week.

My friend and neighbour Nigel Stevens was kind enough to invite me aboard his motor boat, Sole Deep (in retrospect perhaps 'The CodFather' may have been more apt) and before long we were launching her in the mouth of the Mersey at dawn.

I have long supported the notion that fishing is one of the very best ways of seeing more of, and becoming passionate about, the natural world.

Sea fishing from a boat is of course slightly different from stalking through the summer cow pastures of a stream in search of trout.

But whether its otters and kingfishers on the Rea Brook or oystercatchers, shelducks and turnstones on the Mersey estuary in winter, you will still be brought closer to nature.

Our baits cast out, we waited as the Liverpool docks began to come to life and before long Nigel's sixth sense as a fishing captain rewarded his rod with our first fish,

a small yet bright cod.

Shortly thereafter it was my turn, another small specimen yet beautifully marked and my first ever capture of a species that I thought was so well-known to me.

It has wonderfully smooth scales, large,



No more sand eels in there! One of Ben's catch-and-release cod

predatory eyes, bright yellow and chalky-blue blotches, curious lateral line and then feelers, not only on its lower jaw but also on its pelvic fins.

The next fish of mine was a dab, a member of the flatfishes, whose life begins like most other fish, on a vertical plane and then whose eyes rotate to the top of its head and allows the fish to take up a 'flat', bottom-dwelling existence in the silt and sand of the estuary.

Nigel had plenty more fish before my last one of the day, another cod, but this time, when I took a gentle but firm hold on its

lower jaw, another fish protruded from its mouth.

A very early sand eel. Not only was this interesting but virtually unheard of at this time of the year. Yet another nod towards the effects of climate change? Maybe.

But as I happily watched my fish swim back down into the murky depths, to me there was one question that had definitely been answered: seeing a cod like this was far better than seeing it amongst table salt, vinegar and chips.

See Ben's artwork online at: www.ben-waddams.com

Thousands are failing to take vital cancer test

MORE than 35,000 women across Shropshire are putting themselves at risk of cervical cancer by not attending routine screenings according to new figures.

The Office for National Statistics figures revealed that nationally more than a million women failed to be screened in 2013/14, and incidence of cervical cancer rose amongst women under 35.

In Shropshire, 44,400 25 to 49-year-olds and 27,400 50 to 64-year-olds were eligible for the test, which takes a sample of cells from the cervix and examines them for signs of changes which may indicate signs of diseases including cancer. But almost a quarter of the younger age group – 10,656 – had not been tested in the past three and a half years and more than a fifth of the older age group – 9,990 – had not been tested in the past five years. In Telford & Wrekin the percentage of women not being tested was higher.

Whilst there were 28,900 25 to 49-year-olds eligible for the test, which is routinely carried out at GP surgeries, 8,150 women – 28.2 per cent – have not been tested in last three-and-a-half years. And of the 13,200 50 to 64-year-olds eligible for tests, 6,849.3, or 23.7 per cent, have not been tested in the past five years.

However, all of these figures were down a fraction of a percent from the previous year.

Of those who had been screened, 91.9 per cent in Shropshire and 91 per cent in Telford & Wrekin had a negative result and fewer than five per cent had a borderline change.

Nationally, the number of women diagnosed with cervical cancer under 35 in England has risen by 3.98 per cent in one year and 33.1 per cent over 10 years. The increase in incidence follows the poor uptake of screening amongst young women in England with 33.7 per cent of 25 to 29 year olds and 22.3 per cent of 30 to 34 year olds failing to be screened in 2013 to 2014.

In response to these figures the Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust charity is asking the public to join #SmearForSmear – a social media campaign which aims to draw attention to the importance of smear tests and in so doing stop the rise in numbers of women diagnosed with the disease.

Robert Music, chief executive for Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, said: "Every day we see the devastating impact a cervical cancer diagnosis can have on both a woman and her loved ones. But to know that for those that delayed their screening before diagnosis, this could have been prevented, is tragic."

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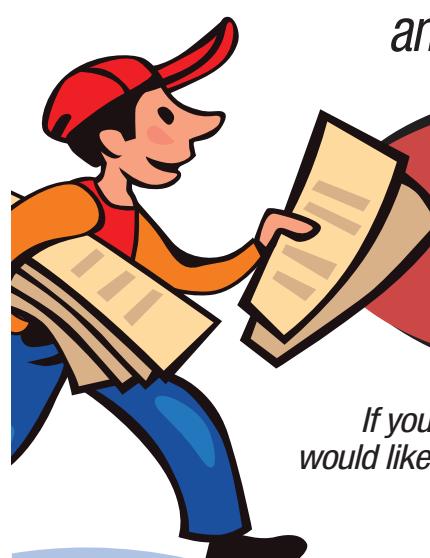
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Gethin Kelly and Mia Lloyd-Thomas with artist Sarah Stokes



The Adcote School under 11 group sequence team



The under 9 Adcote gymnastic team on the top step of the podium



Ysgol Pennant pupils Jamie Marsden-Jones, Rhys Johnson, Elin Lloyd-Davies and Alex Musgrave

School pupils show off their super talents

Report by Sue Austin

Youngsters in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas have been showing off their talents.

Ysgol Pennant in Penybontfawr, near Oswestry and Oldford Infants Primary School, Welshpool, were named the winner and runner-up in the regional Enterprise Troopers competition.

The competition is part of Welsh Government's Youth Entrepreneurship programme to inspire entrepreneurship in primary schools. Talented Adcote School gymnast Danni Langdale scored a perfect 10 at the ISA National Gymnastics Competition to take gold.

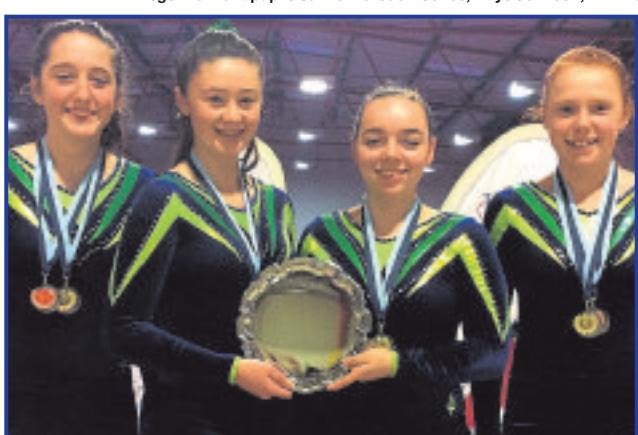
Adcote fielded entries in the U11, U9 and over 11 novice teams and in the U11 group sequence

team, with all the teams walking away with gold medals.

Over at Moreton First School near Oswestry artist Sarah Stokes helped develop the children's recycling skills when she helped them weave recycled bicycle wheels with recycled materials to make a giant mobile sculpture to hang at the entrance to the school.

Oswestry School pupils showed off their business skills by hosting a Christmas Fair to raise money for Severn Hospice.

Students Laura Kendall and Lizzie Jones handed a cheque for £876 over to Mike Perry from Severn Hospice. The total was a record for the event.



Perfect 10 Adcote gymnast Danni Langdale, left, with her winning team mates



Laura Kendall and Lizzy Jones with Mike Perry



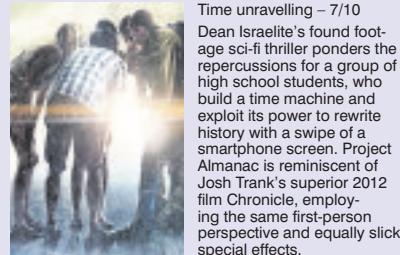
The Adcote School under 11 novice team with their medals



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Entertainment

Cinema listings PROJECT ALMANAC (12A)



Time unravelling – 7/10
Dean Israeli's found footage sci-fi thriller ponders the repercussions for a group of high school students, who build a time machine and exploit its power to rewrite history with a swipe of a smartphone screen. Project Almanac is reminiscent of Josh Trank's superior 2012 film Chronicle, employing the same first-person perspective and equally slick special effects.

THE WEDDING RINGER (15)



Next best man – 6/10
Tax attorney Doug Harris (Josh Gad) is marrying fiancée Gretchen (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting). He never stayed in one place long enough to forge lasting friendships. When Gretchen puts him on the spot about seating plans, he conjures fictitious best man Bic Mitchum, embodied by Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart).

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (18)



A bit dull – 6/10
English Literature student Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) interviews handsome billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) for an article in the university newspaper. Irresistibly drawn to the businessman, Anastasia agrees to a date. As Christian introduces wide-eyed Anastasia to his secret world of domination and submission, he falls for her.

LOVE IS STRANGE (15)



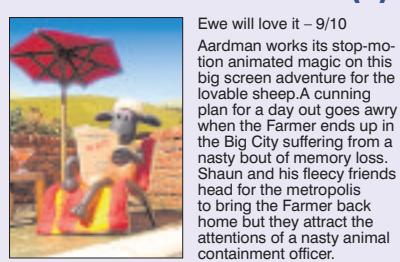
Near perfect match – 8/10
Set to a Chopin piano score, Love Is Strange charts the strains on a long-term relationship against the hustling backdrop of modern-day Manhattan. Ben (John Lithgow) and his partner George (Alfred Molina) have spent almost four decades together and they finally decide to legalise their union with a marriage. The couple face harsh decisions on where to live.

JUPITER ASCENDING (12A)



Battle of the planets – 5/10
The queen of the royal alien house of Abraxas is murdered, leaving behind three heirs including Balem (Eddie Redmayne) who owns Earth. In an outrageous quirk of genetic fate, Balem learns that an immigrant cleaner called Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis) possesses a rare DNA combination, which matches his late mother and therefore entitles her to stake a claim to his planet.

SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE (U)



Ewe will love it – 9/10
Aardman works its stop-motion animated magic on this big screen adventure for the lovable sheep. A cunning plan for a day out goes awry when the Farmer ends up in the Big City suffering from a nasty bout of memory loss. Shaun and his fleecy head for the metropolis to bring the Farmer back home but they attract the attentions of a nasty animal containment officer.

Musical youth show off all their expertise

Report by Sue Austin

MUSICAL youth will be in Oswestry over the next few days – not the 1980s pop group but hundreds of talented young people taking part in a popular annual festival.

The Oswestry Youth Music Festival was introduced in 1977 and has gone from strength to strength, with a record number of entries for 2015.

This year the event runs from today (Thursday) until Sunday.

There will be classes for all ages from infants to college student and for all levels of musicianship from beginners to experts.

There will be competitions for everything from singers to instrumentalists, from solo performers to bands and choirs.

Chairman of the Youth Music Festival, Councillor Cynthia Hawksley said she was looking forward to another busy event.

The Oswestry town councillor said the event attracted a large numbers of entrants from all over Shropshire.

And she said young talent also came to the town from North Wales and the West Midlands border area.

"The standard just gets better from year to year and, in fact this year we have a record number of entrants again in 2015," she said.

"All the classes are free to watch and we welcome audiences to come and enjoy the talented performances.

"The venues we use are Christchurch, The Methodist Church and Holy Trinity all within easy reach of each other and close to car parks in Oswestry."

"The festival is part of the British and European Federation of Festivals and we are committed to running a practised event to a very high standard.

"The adjudications are professional and offer help and advice to each competitor and use standard marking system."

As well as the main awards for each class every competitor receives a certificate and badge/sticker celebrating the festival.

This year's festival logo was designed by 11-year-old Jasmine Goolden, from Woodside School, Oswestry.

The festival finished with a finale concert at Christchurch on Sunday.

A selection of category winners are invited to perform and compete for one of two overall winners' trophies, one for the best overall junior the other for best senior.

For class timings and performances please call Oswestry Town Council on (01691) 680222 to request a copy of the programme or download it from the town council website at www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk.



Cynthia Hawksley with Woodside School pupil Jasmine Goolden and her winning logo design

Book reviews

WHAT TO BAKE

By Jane Hornby

Published by Phaidon

Baking is bigger than Jesus. It's more popular than football. It causes more impassioned debate than Kim Kardashian's derriere. It has propelled blokes who normally rise at 3am each morning to celebrity status.

So what is it with baking? Author Jane Hornby, gives would-be bakers the confidence to master the classics in this intelligently-compiled compendium of 50 delicious recipes. Logical and seemingly foolproof, its intention is to equip amateurs with the skills that they need to perfect peanut



nut butter cookies, lemon-glazed ginger cake, pies, pastries and tart au citron.

Hornby's ideas are well-explained and thoroughly tested.

Her experience makes her a safe pair of hands.

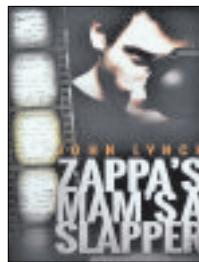
ZAPPA'S MAM'S A SLAPPER

By John Lynch

Published by Mandrill Press

This well-written and absorbing tale makes for fascinating reading and has more than enough of what's known as the "feelgood factor", despite its dark subject matter and setting. A triumph of hope over adversity, it is a fine offering from this Shropshire novelist.

Billy is one of several siblings, all with different fathers, living on a sink estate in Newcastle with his mother, a rarely sober whore, and her current boyfriend, the Creep. Trying hard to rise above the squalor and sordid goings-on that surround



him, Billy finds himself imprisoned for a murder he didn't commit. In prison he is given a chance to gain qualifications which will allow him a better life once freed but his past regularly turns up to haunt him.

RED ROSE, WHITE ROSE

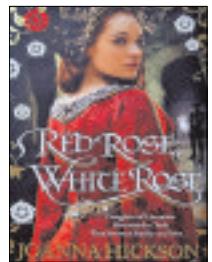
By Joanna Hickson

Published by Harper

It is 15th century and beautiful Cecily Neville is the youngest member of one of the most powerful families in the north of England and staunch Lancastrian supporters.

Her destiny is to marry the Duke of York and give birth to future kings of the realm but not before the country is torn apart in a brutal civil war – The War of the Roses. Family members are pitched against each other as the two powerful factions fight for power in England and in France.

Red Rose, White Rose is the story of real people but with a few very interesting fictional characters thrown in.



the eyes of Cecily and her brother, Cuthbert.

It is the best sort of historical novel – one that tells the story of real people but with a few very interesting fictional characters thrown in.



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Picture focus



Harley Hughes as Oceana and Denise Ellis as Neptunia



Members of the chorus at this year's Chirk Panto entertained the audience



Laura Halliwell, Janos Barber and Jed Machin took part in the fun



Jill Keates, Evan Morris, Emma Dodd, Halayna Williams and Adele Hughes starred in this year's big show

Annual panto proves a big hit once again

Report by Pam Kingsley

A treasure hunt, fluorescent fish, spooky skeletons and a handful of ad-libbing combined to make a successful pantomime in Chirk. Robinson Crusoe was the 22nd production put on by Chirk Pantoholics, and played to a full house every night last week.

The growing panto cast teamed up with Border Counties School of Dance with Jenna, meaning there were so many members of the cast they couldn't all fit on stage at the same time.

Chairwoman Pat Owens said: "This year we had a lot of children in the show which meant the dancers were in two groups, with 30 dancing in one show and 30 dancing in the other three shows. We also had new

members which is great to see, along with the golden oldies.

"We would like to thank the people who came for their continued support because without them there would not be a pantomime in Chirk." Laura Halliwell as Robinson and Serena Young as Polly Perkins led the ensemble through the adventure, which saw them go hunting for Blackbeard the pirate's treasure on a distant island.

They were ably hampered by Janos Barber as Mrs Crusoe, whose costumes - a frock adorned with fairy lights, a red gown hung with bacon and hot dogs, and a very sparkly sailor suit - almost upstaged the rest of the cast.



People of all ages took part in the performance



Charlie Williams, Dan Fisher and Serena Young



There was plenty of dancing at this year's production



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Volunteers helping the elderly to take a break

EVERY year a team of volunteers from Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin organise a week's holiday in Llandudno for older people who wish to have a holiday, but may find it difficult to get away.

The holiday is enjoyed by around 100 of Shropshire's older people, and takes place from July 11 to 18 this year.

It includes great food and nightly entertainment at the family-run Queen's Hotel on the seafront in Llandudno.

This provides a wonderful base from which to explore Llandudno. Holidaymakers can also book a range of trips around the local area.

However, strolling along the promenade in the sunshine, listening to the band, or walking the pier are also very popular pastimes.

Support is provided by a team of volunteers, who do everything they can to make sure that everyone has a good time.

Although they carry out many different tasks, they cannot provide personal care, so if you need a carer, you will need to take one along.

Transport is provided with coaches picking up holidaymakers around the county, including Telford, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch, Oswestry, Wem, Ellesmere, Newport, Church Stretton, Craven Arms and Market Drayton.

The holiday costs £305 for accommodation (bed, breakfast and evening meal) and £50 for transport to and from Llandudno by coach. A small charge of £1 is made for each day trip.

If you need to pay for a carer to come along with you, or are finding it difficult to find the money for the holiday, Age UK may be able to help.

If you know someone who may like to go along, please tell them about it.

Telephone Age UK at its Shrewsbury office on 01743 233123, and join in the fun.

Expansion in tourism helps boost economy

INTERNATIONAL tourist arrivals reached 1,138 million in 2014, a 4.7 per cent increase over the previous year, according to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer.

For 2015, UNWTO forecasts international tourism to grow by three per cent to four per cent, further contributing to the global economic recovery.

The number of international tourists (overnight visitors) reached 1,138 million in 2014, 51 million more than in 2013. With an increase of 4.7 per cent, this is the fifth consecutive year of above average growth since the 2009 economic crisis.

"Over the past years, tourism has proven to be a surprisingly strong and resilient economic activity and a fundamental contributor to the economic recovery by generating billions of dollars in exports and creating millions of jobs," said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, opening the Spain Global Tourism Forum in Madrid.

"This has been true for destinations all around the world, but particularly for Europe, as the region struggles to consolidate its way out of one of the worst economic periods in its history."

By region, the Americas (+seven per cent) and Asia and the Pacific (+ five per cent) registered the strongest growth, while Europe (+ four per cent), the Middle East (+ four per cent) and Africa (+ two per cent) grew at a slightly more modest pace.

By subregion, North America (+ eight per cent) saw the best results, followed by North-East Asia, South Asia, Southern and Mediterranean Europe, Northern Europe and the Caribbean, all increasing by seven per cent.

As in recent years, the growth in international tourism receipts in 2014 is expected to have followed that of arrivals fairly close (the 2014 results for international tourism receipts will be released in April 2015).



Woolacombe boasts a beautiful beach



Try your hand at tackling the high ropes course



Stunning views of the coastline from the parks

Why holiday abroad when paradise is here?

WE are being told more and more to holiday here in Britain. And with quiet retreats like Woolacombe nestled among our coastlines it is easy to see the appeal.

Tucked along the Devon coast from the larger Ilfracombe, Woolacombe boasts one of the best beaches in this part of the world. And what better way to enjoy it than from an all-encompassing leisure complex that has some stunning views along the golden sands and blue seas?

Woolacombe Bay Holiday Parks offer four sites to choose from with access granted to all. The choice is then yours whether your adventures happen on-site or at one of the many attractions littered throughout the Devon countryside.

When the sun is shining the whole area radiates beauty. You can choose to laze by one of the various outdoor pools on offer, or get down to the beach.

There are plenty of entertainment facilities to blow your energy on at the largest park, Golden Coast.

Alongside the pools, there is a surfing simulator and high ropes course to tackle, with food and drink readily available nearby. The sounds of laughing children can be heard from all around. Tennis can be played on-site, adventure golf too, while go-karts are another option for thrill-seekers.

But if the yellow globe in the sky decides to hide away for a while it isn't the end of the world. There are also indoor pools available, while a cinema and bowling complex are within a short walking distance of your lodgings to stop the children crossing their boredom thresholds.

There is also a chance for parents to get a bit of pampering too at the sauna available at the Woolacombe Bay site. With so much achieved during the day it is highly likely that a monstrous ap-

HOLIDAYS

Report by Lisa Bailey

petite will have been worked up. On-site at Golden Coast is The Old Mill, a 17th-century inn that boasts a range of traditional pub grub. It also has an outdoor adventure playground, so the young can work off remaining energy stocks.

If an evening in is more preferable to recharge the batteries then this can be done in any of the accommodations available to you. All are self-catering if you fancy stocking up on ingredients from the on-site convenience stores. But if you are too pooped to cook then don't worry. There are Chinese and pizza takeaways down in Woolacombe village itself, which is a roughly 10 to 15-minute round-trip, that offer decent portions at reasonable prices. If you do fancy venturing off-site to find more adventures then the sandy beach within the village is an excellent place to start. The views from along the cliff tops are breathtaking.

During the day, sitting atop the grassy peaks you can lazily survey the hustle and bustle on the sands below. While at night, they offer the perfect vantage point to watch the sun set together.

The village also boasts an impressive adventure golf complex to enjoy with your family; while the usual beach-side tasty treats are available at the various eateries and shops.

If you are seeking an evening meal to finish off your day on the beach then it would be wise to seek out Hungry Jack's – just a short walk up one of the streets leading away from the sands.

Offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere and gorgeous beer garden to grab the last of the sun's rays, they also cook up some of the most sublime steaks smothered in sumptuous peppercorn sauce that simply must be tried.

Those seeking a little slice of paradise to forget the stresses of work should cast their eyes to this idyllic corner of Devon before even considering anything abroad.



Splashing good fun for all on the surfing simulator at Golden Coast

Out of this world space art display comes in to land

AN exhibition offering a fascinating artistic insight into the world of space travel has landed in Wolverhampton.

In 2012, award-winning Portuguese photographer Edgar Martins approached the European Space Agency with an ambitious proposal.

He requested permission to produce the most comprehensive artistic survey on a leading scientific and space exploration organisation ever assembled. Unlike NASA or CERN, the ESA did not have an artist residency, but it had been looking to establish a more coherent dialogue with the wider public and the arts.

The exhibition, 'The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite' is the result of the ESA granting the artist, who currently lives in the UK, exclusive access to all of their facilities, staff, programs, technology and partners for the first time ever.

It will now run at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, until May 2. Neus Miro, curator at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, said: "This exhibition has gone on



Part of Space Agency display

display across the world, so it is great to have it here now.

"This is something which has taken Edgar Martins a good few years to produce and you can clearly see how

hard he has worked to get these unique shots. "Being granted such access to the ESA is unprecedented and Martins was the perfect person to take on that opportunity. As an artist, he has always been interested in landscapes and natures empty spaces, so looking at how outer space is discovered would be the ultimate job for him."

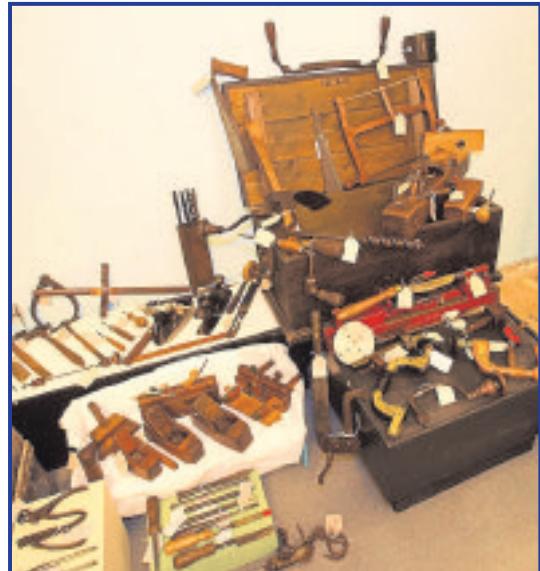
The exhibition consists of photographs collected by Martins on his travels to 15 different locations across the world, including the UK, Holland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Russia, Kazakhstan and French Guiana.

His subjects range from test centres, robotics departments, jet propulsion laboratories, space simulators, launch sites, astronaut training centres and satellites.

The result is a mix of snapshots of the high-tech world where the exploration of space begins and more personal pieces, highlighting how much human work goes in.

Martins said: "I feel fortunate that ESA has recognised, through my proposal, that artists should be entitled to access and engage with space."

Any tips for days out, holidays or places to visit? Email your ideas to lisa.bailey@shropshirestar.co.uk



The museum is full of fascinating exhibits



Mark Hignett from Oswestry Museum takes a look at one of the displays



Oswestry Town Museum also has plenty of recognisable items



Barry Hill from Oswestry Museum takes a look at some of the mystery tools on loan

Museum looks for assistance to identify items

Report by Pam Kingsley

Staff at Oswestry's museum are asking for help to identify 150 items which are part of a collection of hand tools currently on loan. The collection of 400 items was amassed by a man from Welshpool who used to take them to shows, but now he has offered them to the museum and asked for help to identify some of the more unusual tools. Mark Hignett, trustee of the museum, said: "He's collected 400 hand tools and he doesn't know what some of them are himself. "Some will be specific tools that were blacksmith-made and will be unique because they would have been made to carry out a specific task. About 150 of them we don't know what they were used for.

Meanwhile the museum is looking for people in Oswestry interested in discovering the hidden past of the town.

It is holding a community archaeology project and, following a training sessions with experts, will help people set up a small, metre square test pit in their garden to see what secret it holds.

Through the mini-excavations across various Oswestry gardens the museum will delve into the town's past. Contact h.hignett@btinternet.com or drop into the museum for more details.



Barry Hill from Oswestry Museum takes a look at some of the exhibits



The museum has some remarkable exhibits



Mark Hignett from Oswestry Museum takes a look at some of the exhibits



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Memory of childhood song now a bit fuzzy

WHO'S heard of Buzz Fuzz? You know how it is, a snatch of a song gets into your head, and you just can't place it.

It's happened to Janeine Powell of Surrey, whose mum used to sing a song to her called "Buzz Fuzz was a jolly fly."

"I have been trying to find the words to this song since she died," she said.

"I know it is a bit of a long shot but I have been hunting for years for the words through the internet and via post with various organisations."

She has been told that the song was taught locally in Shropshire in the 1930s and 1940s.

"I don't know where else to turn to as I've exhausted all other possible avenues I can think of."

...over to you.

Janeine can remember only parts of the song -

"Buzz Fuzz was a jolly fly, very blithe and gay. He began his lively dance at the dawn of day.

Up and down the window pane came his stealthy tread,

Sometimes on his tip-toe light.... sometimes on his head (?)

After that he breakfasted on a meat terrine

... a juicy red beef steak

Had a nap a second time on old Nanny's nose

Buzzed about, woke baby... creeping on his nose (?)

Janeine adds: "I know there was some bit where there was a spider involved and it all became rather exciting, but regrettably I cannot recall any more, but it was basically a song about a fly called Buzz Fuzz, a baby, a spider and a nanny."

"I would so dearly love to be able to pass on the whole of Buzz Fuzz to my children. I can remember so clearly my mum singing it to me and would love for my children to enjoy the same magic."

And, of course, if you can fill in the gaps and shed more light on this forgotten song of yesteryear, do drop us a line.

Villagers were at pains to change name

UNTIL mid-Victorian times, living in the Shropshire community of St Georges was a pain.

That was the name of the place - Pain's Lane. But on December 19, 1859, there was a public meeting which, to use modern parlance, rebranded the village.

The meeting at the George Inn unanimously agreed to adopt the new name of St George's. In the years since, that original apostrophe has disappeared.

The public notice advertising the change published in the Wellington Journal on January 7, 1860, gives no reason for it.

However the man in the chair that night, the Rev William Allen who was the vicar of St Georges from 1857 to 1871, shed light on the matter in an article "Recollections of Pain's Lane" published in a souvenir booklet of the church's bazaar and garden fete of 1912.

The main argument put forward in support of the change was that "a man could not bring the lass he loved to a Pain's Lane."

"The idea was monstrous and the name of St Martin's Le Grand met with some support before the village eventually became St George's."

The public notice does not mention that suggestion of St Martin's Le Grand, saying that the choices were between "St George's, Payston, and Watlington."

The Wellington Journal adopted the new name immediately, commenting: "We heartily wish prosperity to the flourishing little town of St George's and to the Lilleshal Company, under whose auspices it has mainly risen to its present importance."

Why was it called "St Georges"? Neither Mr Allen nor contemporary reports explain, but it is no doubt after the dedication of the parish church.

Today's St George's Church dates from 1861 - a year or so after the official change of name - but in his article Mr Allen reminisced about Pain's Lane Church, which was built in 1806.



A parade of uniforms at Market Drayton Secondary



An aerial view of the complex from a few years ago



The Grove School, seen here in 1971

Peter looks back on a lesson in revolution

FIFTY years ago Market Drayton was in the vanguard of a far-reaching revolution.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

in 1963. At that time barely eight per cent of English children were educated in comprehensive schools. Shropshire was a quiet part of England. The county council was proud of its political independence. The grammar school had a long history and counted Clive of India among its alumni.

"How then did the school come to be closed and Shropshire and Market Drayton to be in the vanguard of schools reform? "This story is an important part of the history of Market Drayton. It also sheds a particular light on a broader movement in English society, for the early 1960s was a time when the middle ground of politics and social thought was shifting towards the idea of England as a more open, egalitarian and democratic society, one capable of sustaining a more dynamic and prosperous economy and better able to find its place in a new world order.

He was one of the grammar school boys who became one of the pioneer pupils at the new Grove comprehensive.

Far from Market Drayton lagging behind the times, it was to carry the flag for the sweeping changes in education in the 1960s. It was not Shropshire's first comprehensive school - that was at Bishop's Castle.

Sir Peter, who is these days the senior civil servant in Scotland, was a youngster who had a very personal involvement.

"In these times Market Drayton became a pioneer. Long known as a town 'quite behind the day' and 'almost shut out from the civilised world', it made its mark on history. He is dedicating his account to those who made it happen "and to those who carry on its fine traditions at The Grove School."

He plans to give his monograph to the local studies library in Market Drayton so that subsequent generations have an understanding of the Grove's origins.

You might think that throwing grammar school pupils and secondary modern pupils together might lead to trouble but Sir Peter gives a different picture.

"As a boy in a market town like that it was quite tense, partly because you didn't know a lot of the kids who were around on a Saturday night. When we all started to go to school together it's amazing how quickly those things dissolved."

Sir Peter is now the Scottish Government's Permanent Secretary - the senior civil servant in Scotland.



How the plan was reported - this front page is from January 31, 1964

Fascinating blueprint for radical changes to town centre



What might have been - the blueprint of 1961

IT was just what Bridgnorth needed back in 1961 - a big redevelopment to ease traffic congestion and revamp the town, with lots of town centre demolition thrown in for good measure.

At least that was the aim of the town council as they drew up these plans, forming a blueprint for Bridgnorth's future. The blueprint was published in the Bridgnorth Journal of September 8, 1961, and it's interesting to see that even back then they were thinking in terms of a relief road linking Whitburn Street with the road north of the North Gate.

The other main theme of those 1960s proposals was the creation of a commercial development, with parking and a bus station, between Whitburn Street and Listley Street. Based on the map, the cost would have been

the virtual destruction of much of St Mary's Street.

"The main idea behind the proposals is to relieve traffic congestion in the town, which each year becomes a bigger headache for residents, motorists, police and shoppers alike," said the accompanying story.

"For this reason, the two most startling features of the plan are the two relief roads. These two roads are designed to relieve congestion at the town's three bottlenecks - Postern Gate, High Street, and Northgate."

The first relief road started from West Castle Street and cut between the post office and the Baptist Chapel.

"This would mean that shops and property in this area would come down."

The relief road cut through Listley Street and St Mary's Street, joining

the other proposed relief road by the Majestic cinema.

Meanwhile the High Street would become a "shoppers' paradise". It would be narrowed, would carry town traffic only, and there would be no roadside parking.

"The actual property in High Street, most of it with picturesque frontages, would not be touched at all, and of course the Town Hall will remain."

Summing up the blueprint, the newspaper, said: "It means that a lot of old property will go, that a lot of tidying up will take place, and that we shall see many changes. Whether they will all be welcome remains to be seen."

As things turned out, Bridgnorth town centre did not receive the radical changes outlined in the blueprint.



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Picture focus

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Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 26, 2015



Mel Kapitanec shows how to fit breathing apparatus



Clare Dale-Jones, from Ellesmere, gets all kitted up



Rebecca Davies from Wem tries out some protective clothing



Kate Hobbis from Telford, Jeanette Cartwright from Newport and Amy Gaunt from Pant took part in the taster session at Oswestry

Women get a taste of life as a firefighter

Report by Sue Austin

Women were given a taste of life as a firefighter as part of an event to tempt more recruits to the service. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service wants more women to become retained officers.

It invited people to drop in on Oswestry Fire Station, which has two fire appliances and relies on a part-time crew, to ensure they are available to respond to emergencies at any time of the day or night. Some of the county's current retained and full-time women firefighters were on hand to talk to would-be recruits, who travelled from across the county to attend the event.

They were given a tour of the fire station and shown the

equipment used at the wide variety of incidents. "We want to encourage women to look at becoming part time professional firefighters.

"There have been women firefighters in fire stations in Shropshire and across the UK for many years now but it is a career that many women just don't think about," said firefighter Ruth Walkerdine of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Across Shropshire 80 per cent of firefighters are 'on call' which means when there's an emergency they are bleeped to attend the fire station.

For more information about what the job entails visit www.shropshirefire.gov.uk



Liz Kilvert, Rebecca Davies and Clare Dale-Jones tried out the firefighting gear



Ruth Walkerdine with Liz Kilvert from Oswestry



The potential recruits are briefed on firefighting duties



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094



Giuliana Becciu makes some soup during the orchard workshop



Tom Adams shares some planting tips with Karl Beddard



Ronanni Spreafico tends to a plum tree during the workshop

Orchard workshop is staged

Report by Pam Kingsley

An apple a day keeps the doctor away – especially if it is a home grown version.

The apple Sweeney Nonpareil, is covered in 'russetting', a crazed pattern that one local expert says is far more healthy than today's modern varieties.

Tom Adams, known as the 'Apple Man' held a special fruit tree planning workshop at Oswestry's Community Orchard on Saturday.

Those attending the masterclass learned about the best soils, and varieties and how to plant and prune fruit trees.

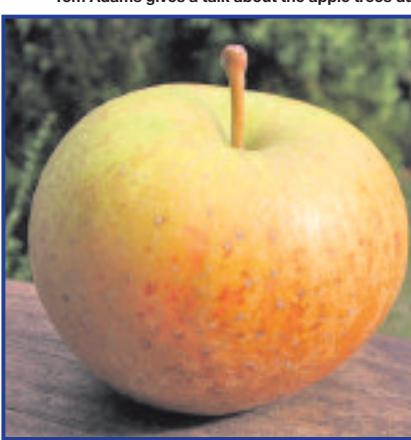
They also learned more about some of the local varieties of apple and heard that the Sweeney Nonpareil is special to Oswestry. Mr Adams, who is based in Weston Rhyn, said: "There are more than 10 different varieties of Shropshire apple including our very own Oswestry apple."



Tom Adams gives a talk about the apple trees during the workshop at Oswestry's community orchard



Andrew Tullo tends to an apple tree during the community orchard workshop



The whole point of the orchard - a delicious apple



Giuliana Becciu looks after the trees in the community orchard at Oswestry



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REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

EILEEN 49, lovely blonde, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416521

GORGEOUS slim blonde lady 5ft 5, seeks attractive man 30-46. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 446463

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive blonde looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416519

MATURE female seeks male penpal (any age) for literate friend. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4647759

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth blonde, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416499

SOPHIA young 40s, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widow preferred, 60-67. 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416471

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 39yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male for GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416337

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy attractive woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 4120291

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde. WLTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416299

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901

SHELLY 36, tiny shy blonde seeks down to earth, sensible, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416235

ALISON, 27, busty, shapely lady seeks fun only with broad minded man. Aca. Tel No: 0905 001 1961 Box 416073

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416197

SUSIE, discreet married lady, young 36s seeks uncomplicated times with man any age or area, all texts answered. Box No: 445943

FEMALE fun Brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416287

FELICITY, professional female, 32yrs, blonde, curvy, fun. Travels a lot and whilst chap for occasional fun on my travels. Box No: 4459438

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416057

LINDY, 43yrs young, married with husband away. Seeks discreet gent any age/area for no strings. Box No: 4459439

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416087

GEM 34y old pretty blonde with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTM kind, tallish male, 30-50s for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415571

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415535

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S, sincere gent for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414977

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415767

SILVIA attractive blonde size 12 45y old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415543

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walking, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 41745

CATH 37y old very bored housewife seeking bored male for some fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414497

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EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54, slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, GSOH, seeks female, 41-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413925

JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous, cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks similar fun female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 352753

PAUL 56, works part time, seeking nice lady, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, honest, genuine and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416017

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416341

JAN 55tins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, honest, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412987

34YR old slim attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412927

SALLY 55tins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, honest, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412931

34YR old slim, dark hair, seeks female to share conversation and have a great time, friendships/relationships, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412777

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully it. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412911

34YR old slim, dark hair, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414067

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413945

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414063

MALE requiring female company, enjoys evenings in, sports and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414059

GEORGE 60 seeks Asian/Oriental female for no strings fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413707

STEVE 60, seeks slim blonde for no strings fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413703

ROBERT 59, N/S, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet strings friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413655

MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun times. Must accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413819

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413755

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413715

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413183

GENT widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, seeks female for discreet strings friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413757

TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413725

6FT 6in, slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413193

JAS 40, looking for attractive young female for good times and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415805

FIT 69y old male, feels 40, looks 30, genuine, seeks N/S female 66-72 with GSOH to share fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415787

MARL 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415690

45YR old male, 5ft 10ins, muscular, outgoing, adventurous, genuine, seeking lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415873

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days off, copy evenings in, holidays. WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412359

JULIE 40, really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, go to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415157

ANITA 55tins slim tanned beautiful blonde, seeking special friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415881

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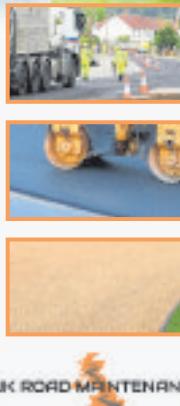
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All-new supercar from Lotus

By James Parker

The new Lotus Evora 400 is the latest pure and focused supercar from Lotus, combining high performance with the legendary Lotus benchmark handling. It is faster and dynamically more capable than the previous Lotus Evora leading to greater agility and a more involving drive.

Maximum speed is 186 mph (300 km/h) and acceleration 0-60 mph is just 4.1 seconds (0-100 km/h in 4.2 seconds). This enables the new Lotus Evora 400 to lap the challenging test track at the Lotus Headquarters in Hethel, Norfolk, a scintillating six seconds faster than the previous model.

Over two thirds of the Lotus Evora 400 is new, including its supercharged and charge-cooled mid-mounted 3.5-litre V6 engine producing 400 horsepower and 410 Nm of torque.

A new aluminium chassis incorporates a new interior and the lightweight composite body has changed significantly both front and rear.

Following the core values of the company, not only is the new Lotus Evora 400 faster than the previous model, it is also 22 kg lighter, achieved through careful and clever design and attention to detail. This weight reduction is even more impressive considering that the supercar has more

power and a higher standard specification than before.

In describing the remit for the new Lotus Evora 400, Jean-Marc Gales, Chief Executive Officer for Group Lotus plc, states: "A requirement for all Lotus cars is to be a benchmark for handling, to be the quickest car from A to B and to provide the driver with a pure and involving driving experience.

"The Evora 400 is the fastest road-going Lotus that we have ever produced, possessing performance that can only be matched by cars costing significantly more.

"It delivers supercar looks allied to supercar performance."

Emphatic

Jean-Marc Gales continues, "We have always said that to make a car better, you must make it faster and lighter.

"We have achieved this, of course, but we didn't stop there, as the considerable number of changes in the interior, chassis, engine and body design have warranted emphatically, the title of a new Lotus Evora.

"Our dealer network stands at 168 worldwide, which is still growing to reach 200 dealers by the end of 2015, while our sales volumes have increased by over 50% in the last 10 months.

"The new Lotus Evora 400 will make its mark as a significant milestone in the history of Lotus.

"Looking to the future, the Lotus Evora 400 will remain core to our product line up for many years to come, with more excit-



'Evora 400 is the fastest road-going Lotus that we have ever produced.'

ing derivatives planned within the next few years."

Combined production for all Lotus models will increase to 70 cars per week by September 2015 and an additional 150 highly skilled operators and craftsmen and women will be recruited in the next four months to accommodate this rise in production. Prices will be announced closer to the on-sale date.

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High hopes for new Celerio

By Graham Breeze

The citycar segment has grown to its highest ever level with 85,000 units sold last year, and Suzuki plans to grasp a bigger market share with the launch of the new Celerio.

It's a brave launch with Suzuki ready to phase out reliable sellers Splash and Alto to concentrate on the new arrival.

And although Suzuki's hopes were hit on launch day with all cars having to be recalled to deal with a reported braking issue I'm backing the Celerio to emerge as a best seller for the company.

The little Celerio doesn't quite match up to the best in class for quality but it's

packed to the roof with standard kit, and while the starting price of £7,999 is not the cheapest, it's easily the best value in sector.

Splash and Alto have both done good jobs for Suzuki, which sold 37,400 cars in the UK last year, but they are being phased out to make way for Celerio and there is a new Vitara on the way later this year.

Celerio will cost you £2,000 more than the outgoing Alto, so Suzuki is taking a leap of faith that regular buyers will stay with the company.

Monitor

But do you actually get more for your money with alloy wheels, DAB radio, Bluetooth, body coloured trim, electric rear windows, power steering, fuel consumption range display and even a tyre pressure monitor on the 1.0SZ4 on test.

The Celerio is cleverly put together to provide best-in-class boot space of 254 litres and ample rear seat space for two adults.

There's no reach adjustment in the steering column but plenty of choice from the height adjustable driver's seat.

Standard specification for the SZ4 includes all-round airbags and there's an immobiliser and remote central door locking to keep the Celerio secure when parked.

At launch, Celerio offers low CO2 emissions of 99g/km and fuel consumption of 65.7mpg on the combined cycle. In April, a new dualjet engine will be available offering even higher fuel economy and CO2 emissions that fall to just 84g/km.

Celerio with the K10C Dualjet engine



'Suzuki is taking a leap of faith that regular buyers will stay with the company'

will be the cleanest car on sale at under £10,000.

Suzuki's newly developed AGS (Auto Gear Shift) will also be added to the range in April. This system features an Intelligent Shift Control Actuator positioned at the top of the transmission that operates the gearshift and clutch automatically.

With AGS, the driver can enjoy the effortless driving of an automatic, particularly in city traffic, but without any loss in fuel

efficiency or increase in CO2 emissions versus manual transmission.

The SZ4 on test had an on-the-road price of £8,999 and bosses at Suzuki are confident of keeping Splash and Alto buyers on board as well as attracting new customers from the likes of Kia and Hyundai.

Having just enjoyed a record year in the UK I believe the Suzuki suits know just what they are doing and with the braking issue resolved Celerio will be a big player.



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Saints are made to work hard for victory

ST MARTINS maintained their promotion push in the West Midlands League division one as they returned to second spot with a tricky 2-1 win at Wyrley.

After the frustration of their clash at Bartestree being postponed the week before due to a waterlogged pitch, the Saints were glad to get back on the pitch.

But they were made to battle all the way against lowly Wyrley, who looked anything like a side struggling at the foot of the table.

Jake Northwood had to make an early save for the visitors, while Shawn Melusi was denied by a good stop at the other end after weaving past four players.

However, Wyrley went in front 10 minutes before the break when Adam Brough headed in a corner, while on the hour the home side had a goal disallowed for offside.

With manager Ryan Butcher away, assistant Craig Rogers took charge and his decision to bring on subs Sam Nash and Mark Lunt paid dividends.

Nash made an immediate impact on 70 minutes when linking up with Adam Dwyer before crossing for Karl Bailey to convert.

Then two minutes later, a poor clearance from home keeper Josh Bowker fell to Lunt who found an unguarded net from 30 yards.

The Saints finished the game strongly, and had chances to have run out more convincing winners with Bailey having a goal disallowed while Lunt fired over from Jamie Hands' pass.

Looking to maintain their promotion push, St Martins now turn their thoughts to Saturday when Hereford Lads Club are the visitors to Park Hall (3pm).

Thorp nets a hat-trick for Llanfair Res

A HAT-trick from Sam Thorp steered Llanfair United reserves to a comfortable 5-0 victory over Treffonen in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one.

The breakthrough came just before the break when a throw by Calum Foulkes found Toby Evans who squared the ball for Thorp to open the scoring. Early in the second half, Luke Gethin was brought down in the area and Evans dispatched the penalty to double the lead.

Thorp made it 3-0 when he converted a Ross Lewis cross and then pounced on a rebound from a Rhys Richards shot for his hat-trick.

Evans then made it five with another penalty late on.

Results - Honda Division One: Abermule Res 0 Meifod 1, Bettws 6 Llanrhedr Res 0, Caersws Res 3 Llanfachar 0, Gwilsfield Res 1 Llanfyllin 1, Llanfair Res 5 Treffonen 0, Waterloo Res 6 Llangedwyn 1. **Mitsubishi Division Two:** Kerry Res 10 Waterloo Colts 0, Llansantffraid Res 1 Forden 1, Morda Utd 0 Llanymynech 2

Frankton are in nets ahead of new season

WITH just two months to the start of the new cricket season, Frankton's nets get underway next Tuesday at Ellesmere College (7.30pm - 9pm).

The nets will continue until the middle of April, while Shropshire League club is looking to attract new players of all levels for the coming season. Anyone interested should contact Ian Whitticase on 07896 877070.

■ Cae Glas cricketers start warming up for the new Shropshire League season when indoor nets get underway next month at their new venue at Ellesmere College.

The first indoor session starts on Thursday, March 12 at 8pm, and runs for six weeks until Thursday, April 16.

Three and easy for FC Oswestry



All Morris hits the first goal

FC Oswestry Town cemented second spot in the Meridian Regional League premier division with a convincing 3-0 home success against Ketley Bank.

After being harshly denied by a last-gasp goal in their 1-1 draw with fellow high fliers Whitchurch Alport the week before, Town produced a positive response as they returned to winning ways.

Manager Nick Maguire was pleased with the win which kept Town second in the league.

But they are still nine points adrift of leaders Telford Juniors who tightened their grip at the top of the table with an emphatic 9-0 beating of struggling Weston Rhyn.

The Oswestry hosts started purposely

with Scott Bright and Graham Dyke linking well up front, and took the lead on 15 minutes when Al Morris fired home from an Elliot Howes cross.

However, they had keeper Ben Richards to thank for making a fantastic save low to his left on 25 minutes to keep his side in front.

The Oswestry hosts, though, were looking good and should have increased their lead before half time when Bright's clever lob was saved by the keeper's finger tips.

The second half saw Town take control from the start.

Central midfielders Olly Jones and Rich Morris dictated play and they soon doubled their lead when again Al Morris was on hand to finish well from a Calum

Williams cross for his second goal of the game.

The home side were now in top gear and Bright was unlucky to see his 35-yard strike harshly disallowed.

The points, however, were sealed in the 75th minute when Al Morris turned provider when setting Bright clear, but the forward was ripped up inside the box and the referee had no option but to award a spot kick.

Bright got up and slotted home to make it three, while in the closing moments Graham Dyke saw his bullet header whistle inches over the bar.

Town have no game on Saturday, but return to action the following week away to Bridgnorth Reserves (3pm).

Llany hit top spot after battle of top two

LLANMYNECH leapfrogged Morda United to the top of the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two table after winning 2-0 at the previously unbeaten leaders.

Two second half goals, both created by Grant Jones and scored by Mike Edwards, settled the issue in an evenly poised clash between the league's two top teams.

Both sides had their chances but it was the visitors' ability to find the net which proved decisive.

Morda bid to bounce back on Saturday when they travel to face mid-table Welshpool Town reserves, while Llanynech make the short journey to lowly Four Crosses reserves.

The Weston Road men entered this game undefeated in the league while Llanynech arrived having won all of their away league fixtures, so something had to give.

The visitors had bolstered their title challenge by signing five new players in recent weeks, while the home side have lost three key strikers through injuries.

Llanynech had the better of the early play but failed to find a way past a resolute United defence.

Morda began to settle and industrious midfielder Danny Owen, who had a good game, was unlucky to hit the bar with a header from a Stuart Johnson cross, while Keith Meredith had a shot on the turn saved by keeper Luke Jones.

Llanynech enjoyed a period of pressure shortly before the break but their best effort, a free kick from Grant Jones, was well held by keeper Josh Thomas.

Within three minutes of the restart, the visitors took the lead when Mike Edwards fired home after a cross by Luke Jones.

This sparked Morda into action with Liam Edwards hitting the side netting, Keith Meredith had a shot blocked and went close from a narrow angle and Danny Owen went close from long range.

The hosts pressed forward for an equaliser but were caught on the break when Grant Jones surged forward. Thomas did well to get a hand to his shot but Mike Edwards followed up to fire home and secure the game for the visitors.

Llanynech now sit proudly at the top of the table just two points ahead of Morda whose title hopes still remain alive as they have a game in hand and are still to visit Llanynech.

Berry treble leads TNS to gr-eight win

TNS Ladies produced their best performance of the season as they swept aside Kingshurst Sporting Club 8-1 at Park Hall to maintain their title push in the West Midlands Women's League Premier Division.

The Saints are now just seven points adrift of the leaders with three games in hand and coach Joe Thompson hailed what was "probably our best team performance of the season, some of the football was a joy to watch."

TNS got off to a flying start when Emily Ridge opened the scoring on five minutes after the Kingshurst goalkeeper flapped at a cross.

Just two minutes later, Sam Berry added a second, before her cross was stabbed home by Sarah Burke at the back post to increase the lead.

Burke's joy was short lived as a minute later she went over on her ankle and had to be replaced by under-18s player Michelle Pasco.

Berry increased the margin with her second before Sophie Edwards then added the fifth with a vicious 25-yard strike.

The visitors got a goal back with the last touch of the half when heading in a corner, but the Saints were in no mood to relinquish their grip.

They continued to move the ball well after the break, with Berry completing her hat-trick before Laura Morris made it 7-1 when cutting inside to slot into the net.

The emphatic win was completed by Jade Hill who linked up with Ridge before slotting the ball home.

Four-star Saints on brink of league title



Mike Wilde gets up to head The New Saints into a 3-0 lead at Aberystwyth Town. Picture: Brian Jones.

when heading over and putting a close range effort into the side netting.

Aber's best moment came through a breakaway from Geoff Kellaway following a defensive slip, but a timely challenge from Kai Edwards snuffed out the danger.

Kellaway lofted another shot wide from distance but for most part, keeper Chris Mullock, standing in for the suspended Paul Harrison, was rarely troubled.

Wilde went close to a hat-trick after the break

With space opening up in the heavy conditions, Cieslewicz curled wide from the edge of the box on 73 minutes after a storming run down the right touchline by Wilde.

Aber's Chris Davies cleared off the line after an inswinging Cieslewicz corner had been flicked on by Williams, while Cieslewicz brought a low save from substitute keeper Phil Draper and sub Scott Quigley put the rebound over from a tight angle.

Llan hit back to book spot in last eight

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Unbeaten high fliers LLANFAIR UNITED stayed on course for a league and cup double after winning 3-0 at Carno.

James Davies put the league leaders in course when heading in a Ross Frame cross after just three minutes. Davies then doubled the lead after the interval with his second at the back post before Paul Griffiths made the points safe with a strike from outside the box.

WATERLOO ROVERS stormed through with a 4-0 passage at FOUR CROSSES, the goals coming from Ricky Litchfield, Marcus Ashley, Will Pritchard and Andrew Gwilt.

MONTGOMERY cast aside their first division basement worries to reach the last eight with a 2-0 home victory against second division title chasers Hay St Mary's.

Bow Street edged out struggling Aberystwyth University 3-2, with Nicky Smith Sion Ewart and

Paul Keegan on the mark while Matthew Curtis and Dan Pugh responded.

Penrhyncoch progressed to the last eight but were pushed all the way by 10-man Machynlleth before prevailing 2-1 after extra time at Cae Baker thanks to goals from Owain James and Josh Shaw, Andrew Page giving the visitors the lead.

Kerry eased through with a 6-1 passage at Presteigne, while improving Tywyn Bryncrug were 4-3 winners at Builth Wells.

In the league, DYFFRYN BANW notched a 4-1 home success over Bont to boost their hopes of pushing up to mid-table in division two.

Geraint Roberts scored twice, with Arwel Jones and Llyr Thomas also on the mark.

Elsewhere, Knighton Town moved top courtesy of a 6-0 home romp against Abermule, while Borth United were 5-2 home winners against Talgarth and Penybont won 4-3 at Newbridge.

Rhosgoch made the most of being the only side in division one action as they climbed up to third spot with a 4-0 home hammering of Abergavon.

Rainford is on song as Morda A close gap

WITH high-flying Caereinon A not featuring in this week's fixtures in the JC Dyke Oswestry Table Tennis League, there was an opportunity for Morda A to close the gap on the current leaders.

And they did this to great effect by beating Wynnstay 7-3 to maintain their challenge for honours.

Unbeaten for Morda was Brian Rainford, although he did need the full five sets to overcome Wynnstay's Harvey Kynaston, coming back from two sets down.

Caereinon B went a step closer to winning the Second Division title with an 8-2 success over the Oswestry based Ex-Servicemen's team.

This match featured the top two players in the division, but once again it was Caereinon's Philip Langford who got the better of Julian Walford for the third time this season, again in a tense five-setter.

Walford got both points for the Ex-Servicemen's as he beat Gareth Thomas and Andrec Bar-tozer.

Lower down the division, Llansilin also secured a convincing 8-2 victory over bottom club Kinnerley.

Aaron Morris got Llansilin off the right foot when he got the better of Alex Vuckovic in the first match of the evening which went to five sets, before eventually prevailing in this tough encounter 11-6 in the fifth.

He went on to win his other two singles matches to complete his hat-trick. Mike Taylor and Pat Lovell added to Llansilin's tally with a further two wins with Morris pairing up with Taylor to secure the doubles for the 8-2 win.

Bid to boost the number of local refs

BUDGING young football referees are being targeted in a new drive by the Central Wales FA.

The association's referee officer, Chris Baynton, says that efforts to recruit new officials have redoubled over the past 12 months, with the association actively engaging clubs.

"At the moment we have around 112 match day officials in Central Wales, which is simply not enough," said Baynton.

"When you consider the size of the area and the number of leagues it is clear that we remain around 30 short of the number which we would ideally need to cover all fixtures."

The association is also concerned at the average age of its officials, which remains too high, and is targeting younger referees to fill the void, particularly players who are coming to the end of their careers. "We must look to the future and that means getting the next generation of referees recruited and trained," he added.

Over the past decade the number of referees has fallen with each season now representing a challenge for appointment secretaries of local leagues.

Baynton pointed to the success of a host of locally-based referees who have reached the top, in particular Llanrhaeadr's Huw Jones and Rob Jenkins of Guilsfield.

A referees course will be held in Newtown on Sunday, March 29, when Wales' top referee Rodger Gifford will be present.

"The FAW is looking to get young referees on the ladder to develop them over the next 12 months, so it is a great time for people to take up the whistle," added Baynton.

For more information contact Chris Baynton on 01874-711780 or 07770-909309.

Watkins flier

JAMES Watkins made a flying start to this year's rally campaign with a second place finish in his class at the Wyedean Rally.

The Welshpool driver had led his class around the Chepstow forests, but engine trouble in the latter stages saw him drop to second.

Stevens proud of four-star Rangers

DELIGHTED Dan Stevens saluted the efforts of his Ellesmere Rangers young guns after they turned on the style to run out convincing 4-0 winners at local rivals Shawbury United on a derby day to remember for the Beech Grove club.

Ryan Jones struck twice while Matt Swift and Jackson Hassanyeh were also on target to move Ellesmere to within a single point of Shawbury in the top five of the West Midlands League Premier.

Now Stevens wants his team, who host Black Country Rangers on Saturday, to push to finish as high as they can, having already matched last season's final points total of 61 with a dozen games still to play.

"I was really proud of the lads," said Stevens. "To equal last season's points tally with 12 games still to go is an outstanding effort really."

"I set a points target for us within the dressing room in January and we needed to win one of the two league games against Shawbury to stay on course for that, so it was very pleasing."

"I don't think many people would have seen this result coming, but we played very well and it shows that we're getting the ingredients in place to mount a sustained challenge next season."

Jones converted a Josh Brown cross to give Ellesmere an early lead before smashing a free-kick from the edge of the box into the top corner to double the

advantage.

Shawbury's day went from bad to worse when Jayton Vernon was sent off for a second bookable offence and Ellesmere moved further clear five minutes into the second half when Swift headed in a corner at the far post before left back Hassanyeh cracked in a fourth from 25-yards to complete the scoring.

"They had a man sent off but we were 2-0 up and ended in control by then," added Stevens. "We did well but we won't get carried away with it. We've got to play Shawbury twice again in the coming weeks in league and cup."

Shawbury boss Dave Richards admitted it was a day when nothing went right for his side.

Eagles slip to a fifth defeat in six games

OSWESTRY suffered their fifth defeat in six outings when they went down 24-17 at Port Sunlight to slip to second position in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

The game started well with some good handling by the forwards driving into the Port Sunlight defence with scrum-half Hamish Fuller controlling play. The backs were probing for the gaps, but the visitors found themselves 3-0 down after being penalised for offside.

The Eagles quickly rallied with Tom Keaveny making good ground before being stopped just short of the line by good defence.

However, the Oswestry pack kept up the intensity. No8 James Booth controlling the drive, with Jamie Luckett breaking through before the ball was passed from Andy Smith to John Hughes and finally to Gao Hughes who scored a terrific try. Fin Grogan, playing his debut game at fly half, converted with great style for a 7-3 lead.

Eagles produced some terrific play with Graham Fox bringing experience into the pack, but Port Sunlight drove their opponents back to set up their fly half for an unconverted score.

Undaunted, Booth and Keaveny showed superior play to keep the Eagles on the attack, earning Os a penalty which Grogan slotted over to give his side a two point advantage.

The visitors continued to press before the interval only to be thwarted by the half time whistle, but Booth and Hughes came out for the second half showing the same determination and skill as in the first, with Grogan kicking well.

However, the home side hit back with a well taken try to lead 13-10, while the Eagles were disrupted after going down to 14 men after picking up a yellow card for a try saving tackle.

With plenty of mistakes and poor handling affecting both teams, the game became a little fraught with Oswestry having to defend hard with a man short.

Port Sunlight eventually capitalised with another try, this time converted for a 20-10 lead, but the Eagles fought back with determination with the pack picking and driving their hosts back as Keaveny went over for a try, with Grogan landing another good kick to reduce the arrears to three points.

However, the visitors were unable to find another score and, with just minutes remaining, Port Sunlight broke through the defence to score a fourth touchdown which went unconverted.

With just one win since the turn of the year, the Eagles will look to improve on that record when they host rock bottom Trentham on Saturday. The Oswestry club are looking for a good turnout, with the Six Nations championship showing in the clubhouse afterwards.

Crucial win gives COBRA big lift



Fly half Llew Williams, who scored all 15 points for COBRA in their win against Bro Ffestiniog,

LLEW Williams was in fine kicking form as COBRA took a big step towards survival in the Swale Welsh League division one (north) after a crucial 15-3 victory at lowly Bro Ffestiniog.

Victory at Bro proved a real battle, but fly-half Llew Williams took his penalty chances with five successful kicks.

Playing with the slope in the first half, the Llanfair Caereinon side started well with Williams landing his first penalty from close to the posts before adding a second from 40 metres out.

Bro were reduced to 14 men, picking up a red-card for twice stamping on COBRA captain Aled

Davies, and two more well-taken penalties from Williams had the visitors 12-0 up at half time.

A robust Bro upped their game in the second half with the slope in their favour but another penalty from distance by Williams increased the margin.

COBRA were down to 14 men after scrum-half Alwyn Williams was yellow carded for retaliation following an off the ball incident, and Bro kicked the penalty.

But strong defence kept the home side at bay, and Bro's frustration boiled over when they had their second player red-carded for abusing the referee.

WELSHPOOL paid the price

for a poor start as they returned to duty in the Swale Welsh League division three (north) with a 20-7 home loss to Bangor.

The Maesdyre side found themselves 15-0 down but the hosts showed plenty of spirit, reducing the arrears with a touchdown from scrum-half Joe Stranks, converted by Tom Williams.

Poole enjoyed plenty of the game as they pushed for a second try and an onus point, but it was Bangor who had the last word with a fourth try late on to secure an extra point themselves.

COBRA youth went down 24-0 away to Wrexham in the North Wales Youth League division one.

Guilsfield stay in touch with win at Mold

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

GUILSFIELD cranked up the title pressure in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after maintaining their fine run of form with a hard-fought 2-1 victory at Mold Alex.

With leaders Llandudno losing 3-0 at Caernarfon Town, the Guils are now just seven points off the pace in second place, and also have a game in hand.

Top scorer Danny Barton made the breakthrough midway through the first half with a penalty, his 22nd goal of the season.

John McAluliffe levelled, also with a spot kick four minutes after the interval, but the villagers were not to be denied as Callum Bromley settled the issue 10 minutes from time.

The match was played on a very heavy surface after an overnight downpour and this had an effect on the quality of the game as both sets of players struggled in the conditions.

But the Guils took the lead on 23 minutes after Chris Cathrall began a run in his own half which only ended with him being tripped in the penalty area. Barton put away the spot kick for a slender interval advantage.

And the visitors restored their lead with 10 minutes to go from an unlikely source when full back Callum Bromley crashed home from 18 yards after the home keeper Burns had punched out a corner kick.

This was just reward for Bromley whose runs in the second half caused Mold problems and helped earn the visitors a precious win.

Meanwhile, Mike Barton's Llanidloes Town con-

tinued their climb to safety after a second half fight-back secured a 4-1 victory at struggling Llandrindod Wells.

The Daffs had trailed to a 13th minute strike from Richie Powell, before turning the game on its head with a four-goal blast in the second half.

Luke Evans levelled matters on 62 minutes when his deep free kick found the net, before three goals in the last 10 minutes sealed the comeback. Sub Ollie Clarke put the visitors ahead with a fine strike on 81, before ex-Welshpool forward Jamie Breese (84), his 26th goal of the season, and former Waterloo man Charlie Proctor (90) rounded off the scoring.

Saturday fixtures

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance: Caersws v Conwy Borough, Flint Town Utd v Llandrindod Wells, Llandudno v Rhayader Town, Llanidloes Town v Caernarfon Town, Mold Alex v Porthmadog (2), Rhaydymwyn v Penycae (2).

Huws Gray Cup semi final: Guilsfield v Holyhead Hotspur.

Oswestry League in search for sponsor

Shropshire's oldest bowls league has held its annual meeting with the minimum of fuss - as usual.

The Oswestry League, formed in 1925, has seemed to exist in isolation from the rest of the county scene in recent years, perhaps because it is now dominated by Welsh clubs.

But it continues to provide bowls for more than 700 men and women each week in eight divisions with a vastly experienced set of officers at the helm.

Such is the satisfaction with their work that they were re-elected en bloc at Monday's AGM at Whittington Cricket Club.

One real concern is the Oswestry League is one of the few Shropshire-affiliated leagues that does not have a main backer.

Treasurer Gwynfor Hughes said: "At present the league does not have a sponsor for the 2015 season."

Hughes was still able to report a profit of £365 on last season, meaning the league was still on a "sound financial footing".

Income in 2014 had been down slightly, and revenue from competition entry fees had fallen by £333 compared to 2013.

But savings of £323 on the cost of trophies for the annual presentation evening balanced out.

"Fees for 2015 remain as before and hopefully for the foreseeable future, provided that income and expenditure remain on a parallel," said a league spokesman.

On a proposal from the Church club, seconded by Glyn Ceirion, the honourarium for the league secretary was increased to £1,200, the treasurer's to £400 and the competition secretary's to £600.

The number of teams playing in the league will increase with additional sides from Llanymynech and Ifford unanimously accepted into Division Six.

But there was one late hiccup with secretary Mel Jones reporting that Ruabon had made a late withdrawal of their team from Division Five. It means all teams in the division will have two dates without fixtures this season, which starts on Tuesday, April 14.

Ruabon are still waiting to hear if they have a place in the Whitchurch League.

Officers elected - president: John Hughes; **chairman:** Kevin Stevenson; **treasurer:** Gwynfor Hughes; **league secretary:** Mel Jones; **competition secretary:** Trevor Roberts; **minutes secretary:** Dai Lewis; **welfare officer:** Kevin Stevenson; **county delegates:** David Jones, Emrys Jones; **auditor:** Bryan Price.

Round nine of the North Shropshire Winter Series will take place on Sunday at Prees BC (10.30am).

Wem USC will be the venue for round ten on Sunday, March 15 (10.30am).

Both events expect a good number of on-the-day entries.

Wrockwardine Wood are looking for new bowlers to ensure they can continue in the Telford Ladies Afternoon League.

With just four players currently available for the six-a-side fixtures, they may have to pull out of the league - unless Shirley Jones (01952-613320) can sign some more.

Ex-skipper returns to take spoils

THE Winter League is well under way at Welshpool Golf Club with 64 players contesting the spoils.

The honours on the Saturday went to former captain Richard Jones (6) returning a stunning 29 points, being closely followed by Mark Fletcher (6) on 28.

Poor weather caused the abandonment of Sunday's action, but the league continues this weekend with fixtures on Saturday and Sunday.

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Guilsfield in semi-final showdown

GUILSFIELD aim to maintain their rich vein of form when they head into Saturday's Huws Gray Cup semi-final with Holyhead Hotspur (2.30).

Going great guns in the Cymru Alliance this term, the second placed Guils will fancy their chances of overcoming their Anglesey visitors.

Should they prevail, they will set up a final showdown with Powys rivals Caerwys, but boss Mike Parry has his side will need to be at their best.

"Holyhead have tended not to do so well away from home, but they're on a good run at the moment, and have won their last four or five games," he said.

"They'll also be desperate to reach a final, but we can take confidence from our results this season. We have shown tremendous fitness levels in the last 30 minutes to go on to either win or draw games when we've been behind."

Defender James Henderson returns after missing last week's 2-1 victory at Mold Alex that saw the Guils cement second spot in the table.

With leaders Llandudno losing 3-0 at Caernarfon Town, the Guils are now just seven points off the pace in second place, and also have a game in hand.

They host the high-flying Seasiders a week on Saturday in a top of the table encounter that could have a significant bearing on who wins the title.

Top scorer Danny Barton, with a penalty, and a rare strike from Callum Bromley saw the Guils win 2-1 at Mold who had levelled through a John McAliffe spot kick.

Maldwyn athletes heading for UK Championships

A RECORD number of Maldwyn Harriers have been selected to represent their regions at the UK Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships at Cofton Park in Birmingham a week on Saturday.

Herefordshire League champion Tim Davies and his brother Andrew (the Welsh Commonwealth Games athlete now at Stockport Harriers) have both been named in the North Wales squad.

Joining the leading duo are: Chloe Evans; Vicki Gittins and Margo Martin (under-17 girls), Shannon Walker (under-15 girls), Joseph Crutchley (under-15 boys), Kate Jerman (under-13 girls) and Dillon Gill (under-13 boys).

Meanwhile, Esme Hughes, from Forden, has been selected to run for Shropshire in the under-13 girls race.

"I'm absolutely delighted for our athletes," said Chris Copus, a member of the Maldwyn Harriers coaching staff.

"This is a well deserved recognition and a reward for all the hard work that they put into training and racing."

Meanwhile, Joseph Crutchley justified the selectors' decision by finishing in fourth place in the Welsh Championships under-15 boys race at Corwen.

He was also placed highly in the under-17 boys race at the Welsh Schools Championships at Brecon earlier in the month.

One win should ensure COBRA safety

COBRA know that victory at home to Llandudno on Saturday should all but guarantee their status in rugby's Swalec Welsh League division one (north) for next season.

What looks to be a crucial 15-3 victory at lowly Bro Ffestiniog last week, with fly-half Llew Williams kicking five penalties, took the Meifod men further clear of the basement pack and into mid-table security.

Although still fourth from bottom, COBRA are now 22 points above the two basement places, and

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

also 12 points clear of the next side below them, Dolgellau.

With a game in hand, they would feel that one more win should be enough to put paid to any lingering relegation fears they have and start playing with more freedom.

However, they are again without top try scorer Sion Wyn Williams for the visit of the mid-table

Seasiders, with the wingman still recovering from a broken hand.

After their 20-7 home loss to Bangor last week, WELSHPOOL will hope to bounce back on Saturday when they head to Rhos in the Swalec division three (north).

With just one win since the turn of the year, OSWESTRY look to improve on that record when they entertain rock bottom Trentham in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two on Saturday.

Rugby reports see page 47

Win is vital to keep Os hopes alive

OSWESTRY'S hockey players face a must-win clash at home to Bloxwich on Saturday if they hope to keep alive their slim hopes of promotion from the West Midlands League Division One.

Last week's 5-1 victory at Newtown ensured the Oswestry men remain third, three points behind this weekend's visitors who have two games in hand.

Os took charge with three first half goals, Gareth Kelsall getting the first from a short corner before Jody Wilson scored a brace before the break.

Top scorer Jack Morgan made it 4-0 after the interval with his 33rd goal of the season, before the Mid-Wales Men pulled one back with their only shot on goal.

However, the visitors had the last word when Ollie Booth scored a fifth.

Without a game last weekend, OSWESTRY LADIES look to consolidate third spot in the Cheshire Womens League Division Two when they get back to duty on Saturday at home to Golborne Ladies, who are just one place below.

WELSHPOOL Ladies took another stop towards survival in the North Wales Women's Hockey League division one with a fine 6-1 victory over Penlynn.

Five goals from Caroline Jones helped continue Pool's fine form since the turn of the year, helping her side move up to third from bottom and closer to safety, with a game in hand on their rivals.

Sarah Williams was also on target against their Bala hosts while Hayley Love and Alex Cawthra were named as the top players of the game.

Pool's revival will be put to the test this weekend when they take on runaway leaders Newtown on Saturday and Bangor University on Sunday, with both games at Welshpool's Flash (10.30am).

Leaders Llanfair face University challenge

RUNAWAY leaders Llanfair United can take another step towards the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown when they visit rock bottom Aberystwyth University on Saturday, writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.

Despite having no league game for a couple of weeks, Rhys Stephens men are still 16 points clear at the top and few would expect them to slip up against the students who have won just once this season.

WELSHPOOL, whose depleted side bowed out of the league cup at Llanrhaeadr last week, face a tricky trip to Carno while lowly BERRIEW also have their work cut out at second placed Penrhyncoch as they bid to ease their relegation worries.

After three weeks of cup action, LLA NRHAEDR return to duty in the league when they entertain Bow Street while WATERLOO ROVERS welcome LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE, with both sides eyeing a top six finish.



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TNS ON BRINK OF TITLE NO.9

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THERE may still be seven games remaining, but The New Saints can virtually wrap up a fourth successive Welsh Premier title should they overcome Airbus UK in Sunday's televised clash at Park Hall (4pm).

Victory against the Wingmakers, and a defeat for second-placed Bala Town at home to Aberystwyth Town on Friday night, would effectively make TNS champions for a record ninth time.

Those results would still leave the league leaders needing one point to make mathematically sure of the title but, with a vastly superior goal difference than their rivals, another piece of silverware would certainly be on the way to Park Hall.

The defending champions have never looked likely to relinquish the crown throughout a commanding campaign – and the only questions that remain are whether they will go through the season unbeaten and complete the treble.

Fantastic

Manager Craig Harrison refuses to look too far ahead, playing down talk of the title as he insists his side still have plenty of work ahead.

But he hailed the consistency and hunger of his players in all competitions.

"We're still in February, so to be in this position is a fantastic effort from everybody," said Harrison. "To stay unbeaten is going to be a challenge, but there is a lot of desire to keep the run going, and everyone is working hard for each other."

"We just want to keep that run going, try to win every game and be as professional as we can."

The Saints showed no signs of slipping up after brushing aside Europa League hopefuls Aberystwyth Town 4-0 at Park Avenue last Sunday with Mike Wilde scoring twice and Adrian Cieslewicz and Matty Williams getting the others.

But they have tasted success against the Saints in the past, and will want to put a damper on the hosts' title pursuit as they bid to boost their own hopes of finishing runners-up and qualifying for the Europa League.

With just seven league games remaining TNS now hold a commanding 15-point lead at the top. To underline their dominance, the champions elect have a goal difference of plus 58, 34 better



TNS' two-goal hotshot Mike Wilde celebrates after scoring against Aberystwyth

than their closest rivals.

But their record could face a threat on Sunday against an Airbus side lying in third spot.

Games between the sides often provide closely-fought affairs with all four encounters finishing in 1-1 draws last season. This term, the Wingmakers also drew 1-1 in the first meeting at Park Hall back in November while losing 3-2 at home in a controversial clash on their own 3G surface.

But they have tasted success against the Saints in the past, and will want to put a damper on the hosts' title pursuit as they bid to boost their own hopes of finishing runners-up and qualifying for the Europa League.

Keeper Paul Harrison returns in goal after missing the Aberystwyth win through a one match ban.

Before Sunday's kick-off, there will be a minute's silence in memory of club president Mike 'Spider' Hughes, who passed away after a short illness aged 73.

Boss Craig Harrison, meanwhile, was highly satisfied with the display at Aber, in which the Saints were dominant on a heavy surface against a side who had drawn twice with the leaders this season.

"It was as good an all round performance as we've had this season considering the conditions," he said.

"We passed the ball well and scored some good goals. I was critical of our finishing the week before in our 0-0 draw at Newtown, but we were spot on this week."

Before Sunday's kick-off, there will be a minute's silence in memory of club president Mike 'Spider' Hughes, who passed away after a short illness aged 73.

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